



# MAX LEVEL NEWBIE

BOOK 02

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**Max Level Newbie**

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by

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# Synopsis

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A world where all of the greatest in all dimensions have gathered.

Three out of five were the strongest in their world, and one of them was considered the strongest in history.

A crazy world where a wandering goblin would be above level 90.

Asgard, otherwise known as "Heaven above the heavens."

In a world where all of the monsters of the worlds meet, Vulcan's new adventure begins.

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# Chapter 101 - Over a Mountain and Yet Another Mountain (3)

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Vulcan was thrown into chaos.

So far, he never batted an eye despite having faced numerous powerful opponents continuously.

Even when Rex Ruburo achieved substantial stats boost through evil means, also when Vulcan was nervous, he didn't panic like this.

However, he could not stay calm about the fact that the Enlightened Gods, his most powerful forces, suddenly disappeared. Like a child who just lost his parents, he felt anxiety filling up inside.

‘I have plenty of Vitality Marbles in the inventory...’

Vulcan wondered if the Vitality Marbles were all spent, so he opened his inventory and checked inside. However, that was not the case.

The amount had decreased substantially in comparison to the beginning, but he was still on the safe side.

He still had enough to borrow the power of Yur Dong-bin at least twice more.

“What the? How did this happen?”

Vulcan's voice was filled with panic.

He immediately tried to put Vitality Marbles into Kina Kina the beast bird's mouth.

He was trying to summon any Enlightened God and ask about why the summoning was canceled earlier.

However, Vulcan couldn't continue.

Deadly intent.

Enormous evil intent was gazing upon Vulcan. It was enough to make him absolutely petrified in an instant.

Vulcan instinctively felt the danger and quickly lowered his body.

Psuuuuung

“You dodged that. You are pretty quick.”

“...”

Rex struggled and raised his body up.

His hand was engulfed in bright light, and Vulcan could feel huge mana twitching around there.

Vulcan felt his heart sink. He quickly put distance between himself and Rex and fixed his gaze at the man.

Vulcan already forgot about putting Vitality Marbles inside Kina Kina's mouth.

Rex's body was broken to the point of being in brink of death. However, as far as the stats were concerned, Rex was still a powerful one with four-digit level.

Vulcan had no margin to spare and wonder his eyes off.

He could feel his forehead being filled with cold sweats.

Looking at Vulcan's reaction, Rex smiled brightly.

It was the smile of someone who barely escaped the monsters from the depth of hell.

Rex gathered plenty of mana in his both hands and thought, ‘I thought I was dead for sure, yet...’

With his eyes closed, Rex was going to show a composed final moment.

However, although quite some time had passed, nothing happened. That really spoiled his mood.

Rex thought they were toying with him.

‘Fuck. I’m going to die here, yet they are doing something like this...!’

He was experiencing unspeakable anguish over the fact that he lost everything over one morning, and he was receiving such a patronizing treatment in the end, or so he thought.

Infuriated, he opened his eyes to just get it over with already. However, he felt that the situation was flowing in a strange direction.

The knight-like bastard, who had been exuding huge castle-like sturdiness, was gone without a trace. Instead, there was just Vulcan looking all over the place in panic.

At that moment, Rex quickly recognized that the situation was rolling in his favor. He then promptly fired a mana canon at Vulcan.

Due to the fact that his body’s condition was in shambles and his deadly intent that could not be suppressed, Rex was not able to end Vulcan in a single blow, but that didn’t matter.

Even in a trashed condition like this, Rex was confident that he could handle one of Vulcan who longer had any Enlightened Gods around.

Rex belittled Vulcan.

“I don’t know what happened, but I think the situation had turned in my favor, don’t you think?”

“...”

“Why are you speechless, huh? Because the big brothers who had been protecting you are all gone? Huh? Why don’t you answer! Haha!”

Vulcan didn’t answer.

It was not going to help him at all anyway no matter what he said



in response.

Instead of giving an awkward answer that might help raising Rex's fighting spirit, Vulcan thought it would be better to ignore the questions with silence.

Vulcan was feeling incredible pressure. He felt like his internal organs were going to get squeezed out from the pressure. He suppressed the anxiety and operated the Thunder God's Might.

Rex watched the golden energy surrounding Vulcan's body and belittled Vulcan as if he found Vulcan's move to be pathetic.

"Kuku. It seems like you are in no mood to answer."

"..."

Vulcan still kept silent.

As if he didn't care anymore, Rex shrugged his shoulder.

"Well, it's fine. Let's end this."

Immediately, Rex's thick arms swelled up to twice the size. The light that was focused through his arms also grew in intensity.

It looked like the mana cannon was going to be launched at Vulcan in any moment.

While focusing on Rex's every move, Vulcan bit his lower lips hard enough to cause bleeding.

It was at that moment.

Shoooooc

It was a sound of futility like air being blown out of a balloon.

After that, as if air really did get blown out, Rex's body went back from a muscular form to his original skin and bones state.

"... Huh?"

"... Um?"

They were both dumbfounded.



Only silence was flowing in the area.

For a long while, a quiet atmosphere continued as if the place was a baseball stadium without any game for the day.

The landscape was filled with destruction as result of numerous magic spells. Only lonely sounds of winds could be heard.

Like that, for about five seconds, the two men just stared at each other without being able to say anything. Eventually, a voice full of regrets could be heard from Rex's mouth.

“Shit... Time limit...”

Kwaaaang!

Vulcan quickly created a Destructive Core and dropped it toward Rex.

The man was vaporized. Not even a tiny piece of his clothes was left. Rex met his end without even being able to scream.

Watching this, he felt the tension suddenly breaking. Vulcan plummeted to the ground.

He finally breathed.

“Puuuhaaaaaa...”

Vulcan decided to lay down with all of his arms and legs spread out all the way.

Like that, Vulcan recovered his energy for a moment. He felt like his lifespan just got reduced by ten years from the fright. Vulcan looked at the sky.

The clouds were slowly floating away.

Looking at the relaxing clouds, Vulcan finally realized that it was all over.

‘No... Not quite. There's Chimeras, and... Fowaru.’

Their existences made Vulcan feel uncomfortable. However, they didn't bother Vulcan so much.

At best, Chimeras were around level 750. They were no longer any threat to him.

As for Fowaru, his level was over 880, and the man was a special ancient being, so it was going to be a little more difficult to fight Fowaru. However, Vulcan didn't think he would lose.

He was certain he had the ability to fight anyone who was under level 900.

Vulcan was finally able to relax his face comfortably.

"It's over..."

Of course, his revenge was not perfectly complete yet, but that didn't matter.

It was because his greatest enemy named Bae Su Jin was gone.

Vulcan no longer needed to stay in hidden dungeons to avoid Bae Su Jin.

Now, like Vulcan always had been, he could go find a hunting ground that suited his level and work diligently on leveling up. He just needed to work hard, level up and clear the Act 2 and then return to Earth that had been restored, to be reunited with his family.

The rest of his journey looked smooth.

Vulcan had no reason to feel uncertain about the future.

'... Yet, how come something feels so wrong?'

Vulcan was vacantly staring at the clouds.

He had been unconsciously following the clouds that were flowing to the east. He then saw a cloud that looked like a round marble. Vulcan suddenly got a grip.

'Ah, the Enlightened God!'

He wondered why he didn't think of this until now.

Only five minutes ago, Vulcan was feeling anxious as if he was a

child who lost his parents, yet he had been completely forgetting about this after the danger was over.

Vulcan laughed at himself for his own ridiculousness. He injected mana into Kina Kina and put a Vitality Marble in its mouth.

He was intending to summon a lowest Enlightened God at least and ask why Vilhelum Phon was unsummoned earlier.

However, his attempt ended in failure.

“Twat.”

“...”

Kina Kina refused to eat the marble.

Vulcan panicked. He picked up the marble and tried to put it in Kina Kina’s mouth again, but Kina Kina looked enraged. Infuriated voice could be heard through its mouth.

- You rascal! That’s enough!

“... Blue Dragon, Sir?”

- Sir you say? Don’t bother with pretended respects!

His voice sounded furious.

Vulcan didn’t know why, so he kept silent. Rays of light exuded from Kina Kina’s mouth and formed a visual in the air.

There was the Blue Dragon lying on the bed with a wet towel on his head.

Next to him was Ryur-ryul the Fox Demon. It seemed she was nursing the Blue Dragon.

Shocked to see this, Vulcan asked,

“What the... Blue Dragon... How did this happen...”

Vulcan sounded like he was absolutely stunned.

He couldn’t help it.

This was the Blue Dragon.

They were at Act 2 where only the best of Act 1 gathered, and the Blue Dragon was a god beast who was counted among the most powerful beings in Act 2.

However, he was bedridden at the moment. It was unthinkable for Vulcan.

‘Just what happened to him... Wait, but why is he so angry at me?’

Vulcan put on a respectful face and rolled his brain.

He figured the Blue Dragon must have a reason to be so mad at him.

Vulcan thought he might be the reason why the Blue Dragon was having such a difficult time.

Vulcan observed the expression on the Blue Dragon’s face.

The Blue Dragon was glaring at Vulcan, and Vulcan was now sure of his conjecture.

The Blue Dragon had the look on his face that said Vulcan should know why.

Vulcan carefully went over everything he did.

“Ah!”

It seemed Vulcan realized something.

“By any chance... Because of Enlightened God summon...”

- Did you do this even though you knew? Huh?

“No, that’s not it...”

- Because of you, I thought I was going to dry up and die!

Blue Wind the Blue Dragon scolded Vulcan with infuriated face.

Looking at the Blue Dragon, Vulcan put up an apologetic face.

‘That makes sense... He had been maintaining the summoning through the whole day... I understand how it put strain on him.’

The Blue Wind had been summoning the Enlightened Gods in exchange for the Vitality Marbles.

Of course, it was not like Vulcan could use unlimited power in exchange for the Vitality Marbles put in like a vending machine.

Vulcan had been continuing to borrow Yur Dong-bin's incredible power. Later on, Vulcan had two Enlightened Gods summoned at once. It seemed this was difficult even for the Blue Dragon.

"You didn't say anything, so I thought you were all right..."

- Would you have been all right with all that? Summoning such Enlightened Gods from a long distance is... Ugh. Let's not even bother.

Blue Wind the Blue Dragon was pointing at Vulcan, but he moaned in pain and laid back down on the bed.

Watching the Blue Dragon, Vulcan apologized again.

"... I was in a critical situation, so it could not be helped. My life was on the line... I am sorry."

- ... Hm.

Having heard Vulcan's sincere words, the Blue Wind suppressed his anger.

Actually, although Vulcan made the Blue Dragon overexert himself in summoning the Enlightened Gods, this was not a bad thing for the Blue Dragon.

After all, he did receive unbelievable amount of Vitality Marbles in exchange.

Due to overexertion, the Blue Wind's energy had spoiled a lot, but it could be more than made up with the power that he could gain from absorbing the Vitality Marbles later.

The rage on the Blue Wind's face slowly faded. His face returned to normal.

Of course, even so, the man still looked calculating as usual.

He asked,

- I don't know what was the exact circumstances, but... From the looks of it, I don't think I'll have to ask. The place around you is completely destroyed. Is it all over now?

"Not quite... but it is practically over. The most troublesome ones are dealt with."

Vulcan looked refreshed. The Blue Dragon nodded.

- That's good. Because I went too far this time, let alone providing breathe, I won't be able to perform the Enlightened God summon.

"Is it that bad..."

- Yes. Did you think it is easy to bring such beings to this place remotely? It was made possible because of my power. Other bastards wouldn't be able to even dream about it!

He was obviously bragging about his abilities. However, Vulcan nodded. He had no other choices.

Blue Wind was bragging, but it was also the truth.

Thanks to his incredible power, Vulcan was able to escape this catastrophic danger. Vulcan had no reason to not flatter the man.

Vulcan put up an impressed look on his face and praised the Blue Dragon.

The Blue Wind also knew that Vulcan was just flattering him, but he didn't point it out. Instead, the Blue Wind enjoyed the moment.

Blue Wind the Blue Dragon was feeling better. He said, - Anyway, I don't think I'll be able to use my powers properly for the next ten to twelve days, so be aware of it. If you think you will be in danger for the time being, stay put at the Espo City.

"I understand."

- Well then. I'll get going now. Stay safe.

Phat

Like an electronic that just lost its power, the visual of the room disappeared at an instant.

Vulcan didn't even get to say goodbye to the man. Vulcan scratched the back of his head hard and then plummeted on the ground once again.

He enjoyed the wind and closed his eyes.

Finally, he could feel the sense of liberation and accomplishment.

They were surrounding Vulcan's entire body. They felt refreshing.

Vulcan felt like he could be like this for a whole day.

For now, he wanted to forget everything, including Fowaru, Chimera Maker and the heavy responsibility that he shouldered. Vulcan felt like he could enjoy a life of his own.

He could take a leisurely stroll without having to worry about his safety. He could leisurely lie down and watch the sky.

Vulcan felt like he finally had moments to spare for such.

"... Ugh."

However, Vulcan's troubles didn't end with all these.

Vulcan was so sick of all these. He cringed big time and looked up the sky.

There was a body that was flying through the sky at incredible speed. It was as if it was a rocket.

Vulcan sighed big and muttered,

"Fowaru..."

The worst backstabber had shown up in the worst timing.

Vulcan had bitter smile on his face.



Of all people he met in Act 2, Vulcan believed Fowaru was one of the few that he established decent relations with. However, now, Fowaru was coming at him with obsessed red eyes.

It really spoiled Vulcan's mood.

However, that was that. Now that Vulcan was facing Fowaru, Vulcan had to definitely end this once and for all.

Vulcan got up and cleaned up his dusty armor with a wind spell. Vulcan drew his sword and prepared for combat.

'Fowaru's level is a little over 880... I cannot let my guard down.'

Of course, Vulcan didn't think he would lose.

Vulcan had not been spending idle time. He wasn't going to lose to someone who was in 800 level range.

Carrying tightly packed confidence inside, Vulcan watched Fowaru approaching from the distance.

Vulcan hardened his face.

"This is..."

Something was different.

He figured the violent intensity was obvious.

Vulcan thought Fowaru's kind appearance all this time was just a front. He thought it was obvious that what he was seeing now would be Fowaru's true self.

However, there was a familiar but uncomfortable energy that was agitating his senses in the strangest way. It was the kind of energy that defied the nature.

The energy was similar to the energy from the Duke Demon Armor set that Vulcan was wearing. Looking at Fowaru who was exuding the energy, Vulcan felt uneasy.

"On top of that... It feels like he had grown stronger..."

# Chapter 102 - Deus Ex Machina

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‘That’s not it.

I just got tired because I had been continuously fighting powerful enemies. I’m just mistaking it.’

However, such thoughts didn’t help Vulcan at all.

This was a simple matter of checking Fowaru’s level.

However, Vulcan’s instinct was making him feel uncomfortable. He was hesitant to use the SYSTEM because he was afraid of confirming his fear.

A moment had passed. However, that was enough for Fowaru to close the distance.

Vulcan, who had been hesitating, used the SYSTEM and checked Fowaru’s ability.

Fowaru’s level was displayed.

[Ancient Ferocious Eater Fowaru]

[917Lv]

“Damn it.”

Vulcan promptly cursed.

It was too late for him to use the return scroll.

It was also probably too late for him to make a break for it.

Vulcan was confident about speed, but it looked like Fowaru’s approaching speed was significantly faster.

Vulcan tightly grabbed the blade’s handle, enough to break the handle of an ordinary blade.

He had to do his best and fight Fowaru.

Vulcan had no other option.

Kwaaaang!

With a loud sound of explosion as if a meteor crashed on the ground, Fowaru landed.

It seemed the man was not able to contain the overflowing power.

He was smiling big with his sharp shark-like teeth fully shown. Fowaru looked more terrifying than the demons from hell. Also, his skin looked tainted, and that was making Vulcan feel disgusted.

Vulcan knew Fowaru as the kind man who greeted customers with smiles at the general store. It was unbelievable to see Fowaru like this.

‘How could a man like this hide his true self all along?’

Actually, before that question, Vulcan pondered at how Fowaru could have become so strong. He couldn’t understand how it was possible.

Vulcan heard that Fowaru never set foot outside of the Espo City while Vulcan was grinding for 100 years for the Vitality Marbles.

Of course, there was a possibility of reaching a new height through meditation like Murim warriors. However...

‘Fowaru is not a Murim warrior... Also, even if he was one, the timing is just so odd.’

Vulcan didn’t even dream about the possibility that this was the result of the items he gave to Fowaru.

He merely resented the terrible timing. Fowaru came back stronger than ever when Vulcan temporally lost the support of the Blue Dragon.

“Why?”

“Why? I heard you were in trouble, so I came as fast as I could to...”

“Cut the bullshit.”

“... Hm? Really? Then how about this?”

Kaaang kaang

His teeth collided and made violent sounds.

The noise sounded as if blades were clashing.

Vulcan cringed because he hated hearing the noise. However, it seemed Fowaru was having fun watching Vulcan’s reaction. The smile on Fowaru’s face thickened. He made the noise louder.

KAAAANG KAAAANG KAAAANG KAAAANG

Fowaru looked juvenile.

Watching the man, Vulcan looked puzzled.

He could explain Fowaru’s viciousness as just something that Fowaru had been hiding until now. However, Fowaru looked like a huge weight was lifted off from him. The man looked light.

Actually, it felt like another being had taken possession of Fowaru’s shell.

It seemed even Fowaru realized that Vulcan was dumbfounded by all this. Fowaru stopped making the noise with his teeth.

Fowaru was enraged.

“You bastard! You dare to ignore me! I’ll chew you off!”

“... What.”

“Ah, I shouldn’t do that. He is going to be my faithful slave from now on... I must not kill him. I mustn’t...”

Fowaru looked like he was going to charge in and kill Vulcan immediately. Now, he suddenly stopped his body and shook his head.

It was obvious that the man was not in his right mind.

Vulcan thought so as well.

The energy felt from outside and the level estimated through the

SYSTEM explained that Fowaru who was standing before Vulcan was definitely powerful.

However, the behavior displayed by the man was no different from an old man suffering from dementia.

Vulcan looked at Fowaru for a moment and came to a conclusion.

‘It looks like... He tried to reach a new height through a dangerous path and ended up losing his mind.’

Vulcan’s conjecture was close to what actually happened.

One hundred years ago, Fowaru received the items from Vulcan. In the end, Fowaru was unable to fight off his appetite. In just ten years, Fowaru consumed all of the Duke Demon’s Boots.

In comparison to other ferocious eaters, Fowaru possessed powerful will that was like cold-steel. He had been using his will power to suppress his appetite. However, having felt the powerful taste of the Duke Demon armor, holding out was impossible.

In the end, Fowaru absorbed more demon energy than he could handle. Fowaru started to lose his former self. Now, he became a being who was driven by instincts. His mind was coming and going.

“Kuhuhu. I see. That would be the better way. Hey, Vulcan!”

It seemed Fowaru had his thought organized. The man stopped muttering by himself and called Vulcan.

Vulcan glared at Fowaru with weary eyes. Vulcan didn’t respond.

Finding Vulcan’s reaction to be foolish, Fowaru said,

“You are shriveling big time. You scardy cat... I won’t hurt you, so don’t be afraid. Hey, can you see this?”

Fowaru brought out a small glass bottle.

It was a liquid that was brighter and clearer than blood. The liquid swirled around inside a glass bottle that was the size of about

two fingers.

Fowaru looked at it and said,

“This is called the Elixir of Servitude. If I mix my blood with this and have it consumed by the one I want to use as a servant, I can work that bastard like a slave for one hundred years at will. Of all potions I made, I could say this is my masterpiece. Isn't this incredible? Uuhahaha!”

“...”

“Tsk. Not going to say anything? Well, fine. I'll go straight to the point. Drink this. If you do, then I'll spare your life.”

“... What.”

“It's as I said. Become my slave and work for me for 100 years... no, just 300 years. With your abilities, get me items... items like the boots you brought me before. If you continue to pay me tributes with such items, I'll release you in 300 years... No! 500 years! I promise to release you after 500 years! What do you think? Isn't that a great deal?”

Fowaru kept on increasing the duration as he talked.

Like a child, he was honestly telling Vulcan about his desire. Vulcan found this laughable. Also, Vulcan now learned exactly why Fowaru was after him. Vulcan felt his head clearing up.

‘So, you were tempted about the Duke Demon Set...’

It might have been the right answer. It might not have been as well.

Of course, Vulcan could not accept Fowaru's terms.

Besides the fact about the promised duration that could not be trusted, Vulcan was absolutely enraged by Fowaru trying to enslave him over some items. Vulcan could not stand it.

Vulcan was even more angry about this because Vulcan had good impression about Jake, Fowaru's pupil.

Vulcan thought about a distant memory where he met Fowaru for the first time.

‘Now that I think about it, the first impression was bad.’

Thinking about not so pleasant memory, Vulcan nodded.

“All right.”

“Kuuuuu, I knew you would refu... What?”

“I said all right. Instead of dying... I think your proposition is better.”

It seemed Fowaru was not expecting this. He looked at Vulcan and blinked his eyes.

However, he soon raised his head high up and broke into a huge laughter.

“HAHAHA! You have a pretty good brain on your shoulders...”

Shoooooooooc

Pazuzuzuzuzuk

It was at that brief moment when Fowaru’s gaze left Vulcan.

Aiming for this moment, Vulcan used the Land-fold for a surprise attack.

The target location was just behind Fowaru.

The attack measure was the Thunder God Blade, the one that Vulcan was most confident of.

It was quite literally lightning fast move.

It was the kind of move that would have been fatal to those who didn’t know about the existence of Land-fold technique. The attack was sharp enough to possibly decide the outcome of this duel in one move.

Explosive swing of the blade crossed the air. It looked like the Heavenly Lightning Blade was about to make a fine red line across



Fowaru's neck.

However,

KAAAGANG!

Fowaru's face turned almost 180 degrees.

Vulcan's blade was surrounded in full by powerful energy of Thunder God Blade technique. However, Fowaru blocked it with his teeth. Fowaru rapidly turned his head.

“Kuuuuk.”

Because of Fowaru's incredible power, Vulcan lost grip on the blade. Fowaru watched Vulcan putting distance. Fowaru said some swearing in inaudible pronunciations. He then clashed his teeth with violent intent to eat the Heavenly Lightning Blade.

However, because it was an indestructible item, it was not damaged from Fowaru's attempt.

Vulcan quickly opened the equipment window through the SYSTEM and placed the Heavenly Lightning Blade back in the inventory. He then equipped it again.

The blade was wielded on Vulcan's hand again. Fowaru was surprised to see this. He said, “As I thought, a Player is a mysterious being. You can perform such a strange trick.”

“...”

“Since you refused my deal, I'll use you as a slave and turn you into an experimental rat.”

Fowaru fortified his body with mana and said in a violent voice like a wild animal.

“Twt.”

Like a reckless merchant at a commerce district, Vulcan spat on the ground and responded to Fowaru.

“Bring it on, you monster bastard.”

\*

Kwakwakwakwang!

Uududududuc

Kwaaaaaaaang!

“Kuhu... How could this be? You are a lot more powerful than I thought. I think you are even stronger than my former self from a hundred years ago! What an insane growth rate!”

Although he was talking, Fowaru continued to move restlessly.

It was to catch up to Vulcan who was dodging in all sorts of ways with sparks surrounding his body.

“How did you become so strong so fast? Huh? Hey, say something!”

Fowaru was acting like a juvenile who was chasing a vagrant while throwing pebbles at him. With unpleasant tone of voice, he continued to pester Vulcan with questions.

However, Vulcan, the one who was on the receiving end of the attacks, had no moments to spare to answer the questions.

Fowaru's punches were coming at him like endless waves. There were also invisible shockwaves that were difficult to dodge.

Vulcan was the type who exuded greater power in difficult combat situations. However, despite this, Vulcan couldn't find any gap in the waves of attacks to turn the tide in his favor.

He could only continue to diligently perform spirit transformation and Land-fold to create variables.

The goddess of victory was still intending to raise Fowaru's arms.

“Eat this!”

Fowaru swung his arm in a large motion and launched a shockwave.

Vulcan leaned back his upper body all the way to avoid it. He

then promptly straightened the back and breathed fire from his mouth.

Phuuuuuaaaaaak

The flame was shot to a wide area.

At the same time, Ifrit's Fists were mixed in and launched toward Fowaru.

However, Fowaru laughed as if he thought they were pathetic. He smiled once. He opened his hands and created a barrier.

Fowaru used the barrier to charge in.

Purbupurpung

By an invisible square wall, all of Vulcan's magic spells were neutralized.

However, due to large explosions, the dust clouds blocked everyone's visions.

Vulcan finally felt his chance for attack had come. He used the Superheated Inferno.

Kwarururururu.

The flame spread from below Vulcan's feet. It was like lava.

Fowaru checked the ground and realized he should not take this lightly. He hardened his face and violently swung his hand.

Whaaaaac

It was as if he just swept away a curtain. The dust clouds were completely gone.

However, several tens of thousand Infinite Flame Orbs bombarded the area immediately afterwards. The dust clouds rose up again.

"Petty schemes..."

Fowaru swung his arm again to secure his vision.

At that moment, he saw that Vulcan had come right in front of him.

It seemed Vulcan was not intending to spare any strength. The blade was wrapped in golden light, and the light was extending out like a lance. Vulcan was charging in.

Fowaru snorted. He raised his right hand and generated several tens of layers of barriers. At that moment, Vulcan's body disappeared.

Shoooc

‘Kuku. Same trick!’

Fowaru's both eyes popped out like a frog, and they rolled independently.

It was a bizarre move, becoming of a horror movie.

However, the move was perfect for securing his field of view.

With a method that defied common sense, Fowaru was able to see all sides around him. He quickly turned around and created several tens of layers of barriers.

Fowaru could make them without using his hand. However, doing so was going to reduce the defensive power of the barriers.

The energy contained in the blade that Vulcan was swinging was powerful. Even Fowaru could not take it lightly, so he had to put in efforts into generating the barriers.

‘After I block your attack, I'll explode the barriers!’

The power of the explosion from the barrier in a close range was something even Fowaru was going to have a hard time withstanding.

He thought there was no way that someone like Vulcan would be able to block it.

Fowaru was smiling, thinking about how Vulcan would turn into

neatly cut pieces of meat soon. However, he looked like he just realized the silliness in his idea.

His goal was capturing Vulcan alive, not kill him.

‘I should explode just one layer.’

Fowaru decided to adjust the explosion’s power. By the time he came to a conclusion about what to do, he had turned his body all the way to the back.

However, there was nothing behind him.

‘... Um?’

Fowaru quickly surrounded his entire body in barriers and turned his head to the back.

Wharurururuk

By transforming into the Fire Spirit, Vulcan had teleported again to the back of Fowaru.

Vulcan disengaged the spirit form and struck down the Thunder God Blade toward the top of Fowaru’s head.

## Chapter 103 - Deus Ex Machina (2)

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The attack was of completely different caliber from the Thunder God Blade technique that Vulcan used earlier.

Unlike the last time, which was relatively lacking in power due to Vulcan's focus on stealth, the attack contained incredible energy.

Swinging the blade, Vulcan desperately hoped,

‘Please die!’

Vulcan held out and held out some more and barely obtained this opportunity.

He was most definitely going to have a significant drop in his chance of victory if he let this one go to waste.

So, Vulcan desperately hoped Fowaru would quietly die.

He hoped Fowaru's head would be split in half and he would never get back up.

However, Fowaru's resistance was beyond Vulcan's wildest imagination.

Kwazazazak.

Clank!

First, there were sounds of Fowaru's barriers being shattered.

They were the sounds that Vulcan wanted.

However, what came after heartlessly betrayed Vulcan's hope. It was an unpleasant sound.

Vulcan ignored the numbing shock on the hand from the reaction of the collision. Instead, he confirmed what it was that stopped his attack.

Vulcan furrowed his brows.

‘A shield?’

There was a shield protruding from the top of Fowaru's head. The shield was about half broken. Vulcan was dumbfounded. However, Act 2 was full of such beings that defied common sense.

Vulcan quickly got over the shock of seeing such a strange thing and swung his blade again.

He made a Destructive Core and launched it toward Fowaru's waist. With his left hand, Vulcan even summoned Baloc's whip and swung it at Fowaru's lower body.

His attacks were result of Vulcan's fear that he won't be able to turn the tide back to his for attack if he lost this chance. However, in the end, Vulcan's moves made things worse.

Purng!

“Khuuurrkk!”

Due to a brief moment of panic, Vulcan's movement was stiff, and there was a gap in his defense.

Fowaru was shocked from being struck by the Thunder God Blade at his head. However, he instinctively caught that brief moment of opportunity and started attacking a step sooner than Vulcan.

A shockwave was launched from Fowaru's mouth. Vulcan received heavy damage and was thrown to the distance. Instead of looking at where Vulcan was being thrown off to, Fowaru used the shockwave to neutralize the Destructive Core, and then he jumped up to the air to escape the Superheated Inferno's range.

‘I still think this flame is getting on my nerve.’

Fowaru was not sure exactly how it was getting on his nerve. However, he instinctively realized it would be of a great disadvantage for him to fight inside the Superheated Inferno.

Although taking the time to get out of the range meant giving Vulcan the time to recover from the damage, Fowaru thought it



was not a bad trade if he could safely get over this inferno.

While leisurely floating in the air, Fowaru started to paste potion on to his forehead. Vulcan was going to throw counters if Fowaru came at him. However, now Vulcan couldn't do anything but drinking a potion.

Like that, a moment passed, and the flame of the Superheated Inferno subsided.

Fowaru looked like he was full of confidence. Meanwhile, Vulcan looked like he was about to die. The looks on their faces contrasted.

Vulcan placed his left hand at his stomach where he was struck by the shockwave.

Thanks to the Demon Duke Set armor, the damage was not as substantial as Vulcan thought it would be. However, it was going to take a while before Vulcan could recover.

Of course, Fowaru didn't give that kind of time for Vulcan.

Fowaru looked even more devilish than Balgeram. Fowaru was charging toward Vulcan. With everything he got, Vulcan cast magic, and the battle resumed.

However, the outcome of battle was already decided.

All of Vulcan's most powerful attacks were defeated one after the other. Vulcan no longer had any power left to win against Fowaru.

Step by step, Fowaru was cornering Vulcan. Like a sinking ship, Vulcan lost strength.

Eventually, Vulcan allowed yet another strike.

Puk!

"Kuu.... Huurrrrk!"

Struck by Fowaru's fist, Vulcan was sent off flying through the sky in an arc.

He survived because Fowaru adjusted down his strength. If Fowaru swung his fist at his full strength, Vulcan's flesh would have been spread all over to the area like a firework that exploded in the midnight sky.

Vulcan's internal organs were damaged. He was constantly coughing out blood. Looking at Vulcan's condition, Fowaru said, "Watching you struggling in pain is making even me feel bad. Why didn't you just listen to me from the beginning?"

"Kuuuhuur, Kuk. Go to hell... Kuuuuluk!"

Vulcan was faltering and shaking. Still, he opened his hand and flipped up his middle finger toward Fowaru.

Fowaru didn't know the exact meaning of his gesture. However, watching it really spoiled his mood.

He clashed his teeth loudly and said,

"Well, fine. You won't be able to curse at me for the rest of your life after taking the Elixir of Servitude."

Fowaru walked leisurely toward Vulcan. Fowaru looked leisurely as if he was just taking a stroll.

Watching the belittling smile on Fowaru, Vulcan thought...

'Why couldn't I be calmer? Why didn't I make safer choices? After getting out of the Lava Demon Cave after 100 years, was I too excited to have the power of Enlightened God summon? If I was just a little more calm and brutally logical...'

Having thought this far, Vulcan stopped half way while coughing and smiled.

'Fuck, it would be weird if I was calm.'

Vulcan was aware that he was not a careful person to begin with.

He put in great efforts into doing things in efficient manner. However, there were always weak points. He tried his best to make intelligent choices, but the end results were never satisfactory.

Since he fell to the Rubel continent and until now, things were always like that.

It was impossible for Vulcan to expect himself to suddenly act like one of those brutally logical and intelligent people.

‘Enough of useless regrets.’

Vulcan closed his eyes.

He looked like he had given up on everything. He no longer had any powers engaged around his body.

He would have been mistaken for a dead person if it was not for involuntary coughs of blood.

Of course, Vulcan didn’t lose all will to resist.

At the moment when Fowaru was going to force him to eat the Elixir of Servitude, Vulcan was intending to deal his final attack against Fowaru with everything he had.

‘That bastard cannot kill me... I should try everything I can to resist to the end.’

Vulcan felt like a lone soldier who was standing against a hundred thousand men army. Like that, he waited for Fowaru to come toward him.

“What the, did you give up? I see, you made a wise choice.”

Fowaru smiled.

He looked very happy.

The tips of his mouth were hanging almost below his ears to reflect Fowaru’s mood.

He was hoping for this moment for the past 130 years ever since he first saw Vulcan.

Although it was delayed substantially due to weird flies and Vulcan going off the grid for a long time, but in the end, the important thing was that Fowaru achieved his goal.

“All right. All right.”

Everything was great.

Fowaru looked excited like a child who got a lot of money from the grandparents during the new year. He walked toward Vulcan.

However, Vulcan was not the only one with tough luck today.

Suuuwwaaaaaaaak!

A spear of light that was about three meters in length came flying toward Fowaru at a fearsome speed.

The speed was incredible and unlike anything he had ever seen. Shocked, Fowaru moved out of the spear's trajectory. However, the spear turned smoothly and targeted him again.

Fowaru ground his teeth and created a barrier.

After that, the spear obliterated all of his barriers, which were several dozens of layers, and struck Fowaru in the stomach.

Kwazazazazac!

Puurrrrrrrng!

“Khuuuurrrrrrk!”

Making long scratches on the ground with his feet, Fowaru was pushed back for a while.

Thanks to the shield that came up on his stomach, Fowaru was saved from the disgraceful state of losing balance and falling over on his butt. However, the blood from his mouth indicated that he was dealt a substantial damage.

Absolutely stunned, Fowaru looked at his stomach again and observed where the spear of light came from.

There was a human who was wielding a sword that was as gigantic as a human being.

Fowaru saw that white light was focusing on the sword. That made Fowaru's face turn pale.

“This is... Fuck...”

Sweaaaaaaaaaac.

At an incredible speed like the last time, the spear of light came at Fowaru.

Fowaru gathered up all of his strength and created barriers over one hundred layers thick. The light collided with them and created unpleasant noises.

Kwazazazazazazac

“Kuhuk...”

Unlike earlier, Fowaru barely managed to successfully defend himself.

However, over 90 layers were destroyed, and there were shocks.

Fowaru felt his entire body aching as he wondered who this unidentified man was.

‘Just who are you! According to Oracle’s information... there wasn’t anyone with such power...’

There were countless people who targeted Vulcan.

Of them all, Fowaru was aware of groups like the Seven Demons or the Bae Su Jin which were more powerful than him.

However, they were more powerful because they were groups. Fowaru believed that no single individual could match his own power.

He thought that even before consuming the Demon Duke’s boots. Now that he absorbed the power of the items’ powers, Fowaru believed there was nobody left who could be compared to him.

However, now, there was a man in the distance who was shooting spears of light through his gigantic sword. The man’s power was... definitely not below himself.

‘Fuck... What should I do? I can’t win... I cannot...’

Fowaru cursed and cursed inside.

The look on Fowaru's face was in disarray like a defeated soldier on the run from horseback riding cavalry.

It was because Fowaru was losing confidence rapidly.

Lately, after absorbing the demon energies, he became more instinctive and simpler in his thoughts. So, as soon as an opponent he could not beat entered the battle, Fowaru lowered his tail immediately.

Fowaru glanced at Vulcan's side. He was still on the ground and unable to get up.

Fowaru thrown away the thought of fighting the mystery man a long time ago.

However, Vulcan was a fish that was almost caught. Fowaru was extremely frustrated about losing him like this, especially after having waited so long for this.

'If I have Vulcan, I will be able to feel the powerful taste of the items I felt a hundred years ago! ... Should I run over there quickly, grab him, and then run?'

The overflowing greed and desire to feed turned up their heads again.

Fowaru looked like a terrified puppy, but now he looked confounded.

However, the agonizing thoughts didn't last long.

Another bright ray of light was exuded from the man's sword. When the third spear of light was generated, Fowaru had no choice but to stop rolling his brain for petty schemes.

"Uuu.... Uuuuaaaaa!"

Screaming like an idiot, Fowaru turned away and escaped from the battlefield.

The spear of light came flying toward his back. Choking in fear, he turned around, constantly took steps back and shot shockwaves.

Kwaaangkwangkwangkwang!

The spear of light continued to shatter Fowaru's shockwaves and approached him. Having realized this, Fowaru formed barriers again. When the spear and the barriers collided, he used the reaction to fly off as far as he could.

“Kuuhuuuc!”

Fowaru was not able to stop all of the shock. Thick stream of blood came out of Fowaru's mouth.

However, he was able to draw a great distance from the battlefield as he hoped. Despite his condition, he didn't even look back. Fowaru ran away using his maximum speed.

The man wielding the gigantic sword clicked his tongue once and gave up chasing after Fowaru.

In the end, the man's top priority was protecting Vulcan.

Now that he achieved that goal, he didn't think it was too bad to let fowaru escape.

The man came toward Vulcan as fast as he could. He was relatively slower than Fowaru or Vulcan. It was surprising given that the man repeatedly used a technique that made even Fowaru to retreat.

Eventually, the man reached Vulcan.

From the pocket on his waist, the man brought out a potion and tried to hand it over to Vulcan.

However, Vulcan refused the man's generosity.

“Thank you, but it's all right. I already drank potions.”

Huh, really? Yet your body is still in shambles like that?”



“I had been drinking repeatedly, so... its effectiveness was reduced.”

“I see... That bastard looked incredibly tough. He looked just like Mr. Fowaru, but the aura felt from him was like facing an ancient demon.”

“That was Fowaru.”

“Huh? That was Fowaru?”

“Yes. I’ll explain that later. I would like to say this first.”

Vulcan struggled to move his upper body. He forced it to rise and said in sincere attitude, “Mr. Phantaero, thank you for saving me.”

“Haha. I told you I’ll definitely show you the Holy Sword when I find it, didn’t I? I merely came to keep the promise.”

[Phantaero, the Brave Hero of Hegatus who Obtained the Holy Sword in His Hand]

[765Lv(+ 200)]

Phantaero was wielding a gigantic sword that shined brilliantly.

The man scratched the back of his head as if he was feeling a little awkward for being thanked.

## Chapter 104 - Deus Ex Machina (3)

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Having heard Phantero's words, Vulcan barely managed to recall what Phantaero said in the past when they met at the Graveyard of the Cursed.

‘If he finds the Holy Sword, he said that he will definitely come to find me to show me the sword before leaving, even if it means making an inquiry to the Oracle...’

Vulcan thought it was just a meaningless gesture for the sake of the mood at the time.

Vulcan looked at Phantaero and said,

“By any chance, did you actually inquire the Oracle...”

“That's right. I asked them to tell me right away when they learn about your whereabouts. I was well aware that you have many enemies. I wanted to help you.”

Listening to Phantaero's calm voice, Vulcan felt the tip of his nose aching. He also felt his inside overcoming with emotions.

Vulcan met Phantaero over one hundred years ago. Also, they only met for a brief time, less than a week.

It could be even said that they were just strangers to each other.

However, for that, Phantaero came all this way and saved Vulcan, meanwhile even mentioning the distant promise he casually made a long time ago so Vulcan would feel better about why Phantaero came here.

‘Of course, friendship between people cannot be measured by the length of the time they spent together, but...’

Still, Vulcan wondered how many people he knew in his life who would sincerely act upon Vulcan's sake.

On top of this, Vulcan had formed nothing but badblood after another ever since he came up to Act 2.

It was obvious why Vulcan thought the world of Phantaero's generosity.

Because of this, Vulcan could not help himself but to ask,

"I know this is an odd question for me to ask since I owe you my life..."

"Um? What is it?"

"Why did you come to save me?"

"... Um. Should there be a reason to come and save a friend? Honestly, I would have not done anything if I didn't have the Holy Sword since I would have been no help to you at all without this. Now, with the Holy Sword, there is almost nobody in Act 2 that I cannot not handle. I had no reason to just sit back and watch when I could afford to help you.'

Phantaero gave Vulcan quite a long explanation.

It seemed Vulcan was not quite getting it. Having noticed the look on Vulcan's face, Phantaero asked back,

"What is it? Do you think it is odd that I came to save you?"

"It is just that this is the first."

"Um?"

"This is the first time for me to have anyone coming to help me without expecting something in return, so..."

Vulcan said in a rather sad and bitter tone.

Vulcan looked like a child at an orphanage who got to hold a present for the first time in his life and was surprised by receiving one.

He was grateful. However, he was also anxious if the sudden grace that dropped on him from above may require a price that he must pay.

In a way, it was obvious why Vulcan was feeling this way.

Vulcan was sent to strange new worlds when he was only 20 years old. Since then, he continued blood splattering battles after battles without being able to establish deep relationships with anyone.

Let alone proper relationships with people based on friendship and trust, Vulcan had to be thankful with others for not having animosity toward him. His life was such an abnormal one.

Even The Six and Jake, the people who Vulcan could say as his closest associates, interacted with Vulcan because they had something they wanted. It could not be said that even those people befriended Vulcan purely based on good will.

‘Other than Big Bro Dokgo Hoo... I guess this is the first time.’

Vulcan’s gratitude toward Dokgo Hoo’s friendship deepened all of sudden.

While Vulcan was lost in all of these thoughts, Phantaero smiled big toward him.

Just looking at the smile made Vulcan feel great. The smile deserved another person smiling back at him. It was that refreshing.

Phantero said,

“You are thinking a little differently than I am. This is not a generosity without reward.”

“Pardon? Ah... there is a price...”

Vulcan looked surprised. Phantaero looked at Vulcan, shook his head and continued.

“No, I already received the reward from you. I suppose I could say that I’m here to repay you for it.”

“What do you mean...”

Vulcan looked puzzled.

Phantaero continued to just stare at Vulcan. He then cleared his neck and said with a sincere look on his face.

“I gained hope from watching you. That was the reward.”

Vulcan was not expecting such words.

He looked dumbfounded.

It seemed Phantaero was amused by Vulcan’s reaction. He had a light laughter and said,

“Vulcan, honestly, by the time I met you, I actually had almost given up on finding the Holy Sword. Well, I did tell you that I planned on searching dangerous areas after obtaining the Blue Dragon’s Breath, but I didn’t expect much. The people of the lower dimension all have their eyes on me and rely on me for hope, so I couldn’t afford to just sit around and do nothing, right? So, I was just acting like I was working hard at least.”

“...”

“However, you were different from me. You were facing a situation far worse than mine. I thought finding the Holy Sword alone was extremely difficult, but you have to clear the Act 2... Just hearing it made me feel like I might puke. You get it, right? Even among the proud and mighty Dragonians and Demi-gods of Act 2, only a handful of them reach the godhood, yet you are attempting it with a body of a feeble human being... On top of this, you are a Player. I thought you would come to face the reality soon and just settle in this world for good because I thought you didn’t stance a chance. However, you didn’t do what I expected.”

Having said this much, Phantaero pierced the ground with the Holy Sword and plummeted on the ground.

Now, he almost leveled his eyes with Vulcan. Phantaero continued.

“You were different from me. You weren’t just forcing yourself to move to act like you were trying to live up to the expectations of

others. You really believed that it was possible for you to clear the Act 2. I saw you taking each step up the stairs as you planned. I really felt it when I saw the Vitality Marbles that you collected from Act 1. Ah, this friend genuinely believes he can do this. He does not have the power of the Brave Hero like I do. He does not have the trust and encouragement from many people either... He is at a situation that is far more desperate and hopeless, yet he still shows sincere efforts.”

“That is...”

“You worked hard, and you work hard some more. You were not thinking about if things were going to work or not. You continued to work diligently. I was able to gain the strength to go on from watching you. I could say that I was reborn. Of course, there were many hardships in the way. I barely managed to overcome death a few times, and the despair came back to find me several times, but still... One hundred years ago, despite going up against a huge organization called Bae Su Jin, I heard that you didn’t back down, and instead, you dealt them a significant strike. I regained the will to continue after hearing the story about you. Actually, now that I’m explaining all these, I feel embarrassed. I’m keep on saying that I gained courage from watching someone who is at a worse situation than me... Haha!”

Having said this much, Phantaero extended his right hand toward Vulcan.

He was requesting a handshake from Vulcan.

Receiving sincere gaze from Phantaero, Vulcan put away everything that he was going to say earlier. Instead, he quietly grabbed Phantaero’s hand.

His hand was rugged, full of callous. Vulcan could feel holy energy from his hand.

It was warm. It made a person’s heart strong. It felt like he was receiving encouragement from several tens of thousands of people.

Receiving that energy, Vulcan lightly closed his eyes.

That was because Vulcan didn't want to show his reddened eyes.

By the time Vulcan barely managed to calm his emotion and look at Phantaero's face, Phantaero said,

"Since I was able to succeed, I know you can too."

"... Thank you. Really... thank you so much."

After finishing the handshake, Vulcan filled his words with sincerity and said to Phantaero.

Phantaero felt embarrassed to hear that. He scratched the back of his head and looked away.

"Haha. Well, this is... We somehow ended up indulging in emotions. Anyway, I really do mean what I said. I'm not just saying it to encourage you. Now that I see you... You have become incredibly strong. If I didn't have the Holy Sword, I don't think I would stand a chance against you. You are incredible... At the current growth rate, you won't just clear the Act 2. I think you might be able to clear it in fastest record time."

"Do you know what the fastest clear record?"

Vulcan wondered if there was going to be an additional reward if he cleared it while beating the fastest record.

However, Phantaero shook his head.

"I don't know very well about that, but... I think it is about five hundred years. If you stop by at a pub, I think there might be someone who knows... Now that I mentioned it, instead of staying here, why don't we return to the Espo City? Let's continue talking about the rest there."

Phantaero got up and dusted off his rear.

Thanks to the potion, Vulcan had recovered enough now to move. He followed suit, got up, and stopped Phantaero who was about to tear up the return scroll paper.

“Pleas wait. There is something left to do.”

“Um? What is it? By any chance, is there more bastards that you need to eradicate?”

Having heard Vulcan’s words, Phantaero showed gleam in his eyes and was about to grab his Holy Sword again.

However, Vulcan shook his head and stopped Phantaero.

“There are more, but... It won’t matter if I handled them myself later. This is something more important.”

“More important?”

Phantaero was puzzled. Going past him, Vulcan took slow steps, and Phantaero moved his gaze toward where Vulcan headed.

‘I don’t see anything?’

All he could see were the gigantic crater that Yur Dong-bin made, a pillar-like land mass at the center which used to have the Bae Su Jin’s base on the top, and rubbles.

Vulcan was already quite far away. Phantaero shouted toward Vulcan,

“Hey! What is the important business? I don’t see anything in particular that stands out!”

“There is! Mr. Phantaero, please come over here too. You don’t need to help me. It’s just that Fowaru might come back, so I would like you to please keep watch for me!”

“Hm... I will.”

Phantaero drew the Holy Sword from the ground. He dashed and caught up to where Vulcan was.

Before long, Vulcan reached where Bae Su Jin’s base used to be. He started to clear up the rubbles one by one with magic.

Vulcan was doing it very carefully like an archeologist who was excavating an ancient site. That invoked curiosity in Phantaero.



He pierced the ground with the Holy Sword again. Standing as if he was leaning on a wall, Phantaero tossed a question at Vulcan,

“Why are you cleaning up the rubbles?”

“I fought them until my head almost burst. I should get a spoil at least, right? A Player gets an item or a quest reward after a battle, but a fight like this don’t have anything, so I’m disappointed. I decided to go find one myself.”

“... Hm... You often mention reward and almost make a song out of it. I think it is because you are a Player.”

Vulcan used magic to lift a huge boulder. He nodded and responded,

“I cannot say that... I am not influenced by it. By the way, why did you let Fowaru escape? It would be better to completely eliminate badblood so there would be no troubles later.”

“I didn’t let him escape. I could not catch him. I have become stronger because I have obtained the power of the Holy Sword, but... I am slow... That bastard was incredibly fast. It would have been difficult to catch up to him. What is it? Are you worried?”

Vulcan shook his head.

It bothered him a little, but Vulcan still had plenty of Vitality Marbles anyway, so it didn’t matter much to him.

Vulcan just needed to rest for a while at the Espo City while the Blue Dragon recovered. Everything was going to be solved with that.

Vulcan was about to tell Phantaero that there was nothing to worry about. However, he found a book that was buried under the rubbles, and lost his attention to it.

Vulcan used magic to carefully clean up the rubbles and brought his hand toward the book.

It seemed the book had a protection spell cast on it. It didn’t even

have a scratch on it.

Vulcan used the SYSTEM to check the information on the book. He put on a smile on his face.

“Looks like I won’t be going back empty handed.”

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Also, meanwhile...

A far from the obliterated base of Bae Su Jin, there was something watching them.

Burying most of its body on the ground, only a single lens-like eye was peeking out.

It was closer to a machine than a living being. It was an utterly lifeless Chimera that was made for the sole purpose of surveillance.

Concerned about being discovered, it was maintaining a great distance from Vulcan and Phantaero.

Even after Vulcan searched the rubbles for a long time and left the scene with Phantaero by using the return scroll, the thing maintained its position without any movement.

That was because its master, the Chimera Maker, lost all motivation and lying on the sofa.

Holding his breath, he was watching the battle that took place there so far. He sighed big and said,

“... I’m just gonna quit.”

To hunt Vulcan, the Chimera Maker put in the effort and even created more powerful Chimeras through the past 100 years. However...

Now, the bastard had become too great of a being. Vulcan was no longer within the Chimera Maker’s reach.

“I should just... look for other ones.”

Chewing on the cookies loudly, the old man turned to look at

screens of other places broadcasted by Chimeras.

# Chapter 105 - Showing Off The Money

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The pub at the Espo City had a much wider space than the one at Act 1.

It was partially due to there being more residents in Act 2 than individual cities in Act 1. However, it was also because the food and drinks tasted great here.

Unable to get over the taste of food here, there were people who came by while taking breaks from years long training.

So, it was hard to even find any empty seats in the pub here.

Alando and Dabi were one of these people who came to the pub after a long time.

They finished four bottles of drinks and enough snacks to fill their stomachs. They looked satisfied as they sighed.

“Ugh. Oh my... We came here just to chat for a while, but we ended up overfilling our stomachs instead.”

“It’s always like that. The food here cannot be compared to beef jerkies. Whenever we visit here, we just have to eat until our stomachs burst.”

The two praised the new menus at the pub for a long while. After finishing talking about the food, only then they were able to get to the main conversation.

Alando sipped on a fruit wine and said,

“Now that I think about it, you said you just returned today, right?”

“Yes. After 50 years of training in isolation, when I broke out of it, this was the first place I wanted to come to. What is it? Did something happen?”

“Yes, there was something big.”

“Hm.”

With full of anticipation in his eyes, Dabi looked at Alando.

Alando hated dramatic pauses and dragging along like one of those storytellers, so Alando went straight to the point.

“I heard that Bae Su Jin was destroyed and all of the members died.”

“... What? Bae Su Jin? The one I know?”

“Yes, that Bae Su Jin.”

Dabi was speechless for a while.

It seemed he was absolutely shocked. He was just staring at Alando. Alando said, “It is a big, right?”

“... No kidding. That is a huge incident. I thought those thugs will continue their villainy for thousands of years...”

Dabi chugged on the drink.

Alando considered the fact that they also had bad memories of Bae Su Jin as he continued.

“Well, that’s what happened. I heard they mostly died, including the bosses and their commander. Well, one or two of the members might be still alive, but they will die soon probably. Otherwise, they may need to stay cooped up somewhere for the next thousand years. There are countless people who suffered because of Bae Su Jin bastards...”

“I know. Those bastards... Ugh. I don’t even want to think about this. I’m glad they are dead. Really.”

Dabi was about to say something, but he decided not to. Instead, he cursed and cursed at Bae Su Jin.

Starting with sons of bitches, he cursed at their parents, the parents of their parents, their ancestors and even the lower dimension that Rex Ruburo used to live. Watching the man curse,

Alando shook his head.

‘This guy, I never thought so, but he apparently knows a lot of foul mouthing.’

Of course, it was not like Alando could not understand how Dabi felt.

It was not like only select few knew about Bae Su Jin’s treachery. Their actions were so abhorrent that they made people puke.

Also, the fact that Bae Su Jin’s dirty work were limited to just the humans, the weakest of all beings in Act 2, was enough to turn people’s inside upside down.

‘Seriously, instead of helping fellow humans.... They didn’t even glance at Dragonians or High-elves in fear of retaliation, yet these bastards...’

As Alando also thought about Bae Su Jin, he felt the fury surging up inside him.

In the end, Alando forgot about how he felt about Dabi’s foul mouthing and instead join in the swearing parade.

For a long while, they bad mouthed about Bae Su Jin. Eventually, they calmed down and went back to the main conversation.

“Now that I think about it, I didn’t ask the really important thing. Who did it? It could not be a human being... By any chance, did those crazy buttholes mess with a Demi-god? If that was not the case, I cannot see how Bae Su Jin would have ended up in ruins in an instant like this.”

Dabi finally asked.

He had to. Bae Su Jin was no pushover organization.

It was not like there weren’t any other organizations in Act 2 that were more powerful than Bae Su Jin. However, among all human, Bae Su Jin was the group that possessed more power than anyone.

So, Dabi automatically assumed that it must’ve been some other

beings besides humans, possibly a Demi-god. Dabi could not help but to be shocked to hear what Alando said afterwards.

“What? A human?”

“That’s right.”

“What the... Is that an accurate information? How could that be true...”

“It came from Oracle, so it is definitely true. According to rumors, the Bae Su Jin’s base was destroyed to the point where the surrounding area’s landscape had changed. It seems the people who wondered what happened all pitched in money and inquired the Oracle. I heard the man’s name is Vulcan. Have you heard of the name?”

“No, not at all.”

With shocked face, Dabi shook his head.

Alando nodded and said,

“I see. I never heard of the name either. I asked just in case.”

“Huh. How could this have happened... How could someone so strong live here for so long without ever getting his name known? To begin with, are you sure he is human? How could a human be that strong...”

“Well, in Act 2, occasionally, some people train in isolation for thousand years or two before coming back. It seems Bae Su Jin was seriously oblivious to the true power of this man. It turned out well for the rest of us. With our own powers, to deal a significant strike against Bae Su Jin...”

Alando blurred the end of his sentence. However, Dabi could guess the rest, so he didn’t wait for the rest.

Still surprised, Dabi said,

“Oh my... Incredible. With that much power, he is definitely the strongest human.”

“Don’t call him the strongest human. That sounds too weak. Although I cannot be certain, I bet even most of Dragonians or Demi-gods in Act 2 cannot beat him.”

“Really?”

“Of course. It is no easy task to destroy Bae Su Jin, especially when they were sitting on their asses inside their fortress.”

“Hm...”

Having heard what Alando said, Dabi drank about half of the new drink and said in passing remark, “In that case, maybe we will get to see a human being clearing Act 2 for the first time in the history.”

“Um...”

The mood turned serious in an instant.

Both Dabi and Alando stopped what they were doing and instead furrowed their brows to focus on their own thoughts.

Like that, a moment passed.

With a shaky voice, Alando responded.

“That might really happen... Hm.”

He fiddled with his chin and said,

“He looks like a total newbie... I think this might be a great spectacle in hundreds of years.”

“Um? What are you talking about? This man named Vulcan... You saw him in person?”

Dabi looked surprised. Alando nodded,

“That’s right. He is at the Espo City auction site. Why? Do you want to go see him?”

Kiiiiiiiiiiiiiiic

Dabi got up in a hurry, and the chair made unpleasant screeching



noise.

He didn't even look back. He promptly opened the pub door and got out.

Alando ended up alone in an instant. He looked at the door for a moment and muttered as if he fell for it, "... You said you will pick up the check."

\*

"Huk... How could such an item..."

"Impossible! Such powerful energy is coming from the staff... Just how was the magic stone created..."

"Master, this blade, isn't it incredible?"

"I don't have the money to buy it for you, so stay put."

"..."

The Espo City's auction site was crowded with people because of the sudden wave of items.

The god at the auction site who examined and certified the items was extremely nitpicky, so the auction site usually had less than ten items per day. However, it was different today.

There were over 50 of various items on display at the site.

The items' levels were quite high as well.

They were B+ at minimum.

Moreover, some were at A+. The people who visited the auction site could not get a hold of themselves from the excitement. They gathered up all of their money and participated in the auction.

The auction was done where the bidder who placed highest amount within 24 hours won the item. So, fearing more competitors, the participants kept their mouths shut about the auction. However, there was no way that the event at such a public place could be kept a secret. It didn't even take five hours before

the auction site became as busy as the pub.

Watching this, Vulcan smiled in satisfaction.

The auction bid prices were going up and up. It was thrilling to watch in a way that was different from leveling up.

‘I think I’ll have more than enough to buy the ingredients.’

The auction site was as busy as a traditional market. Vulcan looked around inside.

He nodded and thought there was nothing else to watch. He opened the building’s door and got out.

Feeling the nice wind, Vulcan walked the street. He found a bench, sat down and thought about Phantaero who left Act 2.

To the very end, Phantaero looked at Vulcan with a smile.

Vulcan was sad to see his most trusted ally leaving to the lower dimension. However, Vulcan could not stop Phantaero.

‘I’m sure he is living well there now.’

Phantaero was able to save his world in the very end. Envious of Phantaero, Vulcan was distracted for a few days. Now, he got a grip to some extent.

It was time for Vulcan to charge forward.

However, despite Vulcan’s motivated mindset, there was not much he could do at the moment.

Vulcan had to wait another ten days until the Blue Dragon recovered.

Also, Fowaru was still alive and well with his eyes wide open. It was too dangerous for Vulcan to leave Espo City when he could not summon Enlightened Gods at the moment.

‘Also... Just like Fowaru who suddenly got stronger, I don’t know what changed with Chimera Maker.’

Vulcan thought Chimera Maker may have created a bunch of new

types of Chimeras to hunt him.

So, instead of heading straight to a hunting ground with higher level monsters, Vulcan decided to increase his stats through a different method.

Vulcan brought out five books from the inventory.

The binding of the books looked ordinary.

However, the contents were exceptionally unique kind, the ones that would be extremely difficult to find anywhere else.

The books contained knowledge developed through hard work by 200 of high level mages.

Vulcan put up a bitter smile as he thought about when he searched the Bae Su Jin's main base a few days ago.

Back then, after finding five of legendary level skillbooks, Vulcan laughed out loudly to the point of bursting his wounds.

‘Unfortunately, only one of the books turned out to be useful...’

After sending Phantaero back to the lower dimension, Vulcan finally checked the detailed options of the books, and saw ‘the skill is incomplete.’

Vulcan remembered the sense of disappointment he felt. He shook as he tossed the four books back in the inventory as if he was tossing garbage.

He then held the last book and checked its description through the SYSTEM.

‘I’m glad I at least salvaged this one...’

[Legendary-rate skill – Secret method of body enhancement]

[Level limit: 600]

The book contains the secret method of body enhancement, which was created by Rex Ruburo and Bae Su Jin's bosses. The enhancement makes a martial warrior's body more suited for the

internal energy art. The enhancement makes a mage's body more suited for magic. The book contains the methods for the enhancement.

Success rate: 100%

Materials needed for the method: 1L of Commander tree's liquid, 10 of Fallen fire lizard of hell's heart, 15 of demon dragon's eye, 100 of highest level magic stone that contains the power of lightning...

The ingredients filled the view.

Appalled by the long list, Vulcan cringed and shook his head.

'It would be an insane idea to try getting all of these by myself. Yup.'

Of course, Vulcan had a few of the ingredients.

Vulcan had over 1L of Commander Tree's liquid. Vulcan had so many of the hearts of the fallen fire lizard of hell that it would not have mattered if the list said he needed over 1000.

However, even though Vulcan was a Player, there was no way he would have had ingredients from hunting grounds where he had never been to.

Still, it was going to be inefficient for Vulcan to run around to gather all of these ingredients himself.

Also, there was no need for him to do so.

Vulcan checked the list of humungous amounts of items sleeping in his inventory.

He had countless number of armors, weapons and magical items, several times the amount he placed on the auction.

They were the side profit of the 100 year grinding.

## Chapter 106 - Showing Off The Money (2)

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‘To consider these as just extra side income, are they a bit too much?’

Still, Vulcan couldn’t think of a better way to define these as anything else.

He already had the greatest equipment for all parts of his armor and weapon. He currently had no need for any other equipment. So, he could say that items in his inventory were all just surpluses.

In other words, he was not going to miss any of them if he sold them for money.

The tip of Vulcan’s lips went up slightly.

‘I became rich before I even realized.’

He was no ordinary rich.

The worth of items that Vulcan had was above and beyond the wildest imagination.

When converted to money’s worth, the sum was something that ordinary residents of Act 2 would have taken over thousand years and still not come close.

Excluding the few strange ones who specialized in trading and business, it was safe to say that Vulcan was one of the richest individuals in the Act 2.

Vulcan never worried about his items not selling.

The one who managed the blacksmith shop was Parkers, the God of Blacksmith. He was famous for being lazy.

So, many residents were always hungry for quality weapons, and they were showing explosive responses to the items that Vulcan listed on the auction.

Vulcan sat on the bench and watched the people heading to the

auction.

It seemed they just heard about the auction site. They were rushing to the auction site with faces that had doubt and expectation mixed in.

Vulcan had a calculating smile on his face as if he became Jake from Beloong City.

‘While the Blue Wind is recovering his strength... let’s try gathering up all of money from Espo City. After that, I should spare no expenses and try to up my stats as much as possible. In other words, I should really go for showing off my money like a bastard!’

This was Vulcan’s ambitious plan.

‘First... Gather ingredients for the body enhancement.’

Vulcan suddenly got up from the bench and started to walk the street.

It was not like there was anything he could do at the auction site.

Vulcan had not had opportunities like these to relax in a long while. To enjoy it, he walked toward the fountain.

\*

“Is that him?”

“That’s right, the one responsible for the situation at the auction site.”

“Huh... Just how did he collect such equipment?”

“You have not heard? I heard that he is a Player.”

“What? Pl.... what?”

The muscular swordsman heard what the skeleton skinny mage’s response and tilted his head to the side.

It was because there was not even a single Player at Act 1 city where the swordsman came from.

Having watched the response by the swordsman, the mage clicked his tongue, wondering how could he not know this.

“Tsk. Tsk. Your problem is that you shut your ears too much.”

“Ah, enough. So, that Pla... What is that Pl whatever?”

“Player.”

“Right. That.”

The mage shook his head as if he was giving up. He slowly explained it to the swordsman.

The mage knew that the swordsman was not so great at understanding things, so the mage explained it in detail and in such a way that even a seven years old could understand with ease.

The swordsman gained a rough understanding. He was impressed and said, “What is this? Players are totally like a blessed being?”

“They are humans, and there are Players among the humans, like Martial Warriors.”

“Anyhow, they are different from me, right? Doesn’t that mean the Players are different beings? It is not like items drop when humans slay monsters.”

“All right. All right. Just comprehend it in a way that’s easy for you to understand.”

The mage complained.

However, the thick-headed swordsman didn’t mind it at all.

Instead, he showed great interest at so called Players. He never heard of the Players before, so he was very curious. He started to ask all sorts of things, and the mage gave proper answers that fit the swordsman’s intellectual level.

Soon, the swordsman more or less resolved his curiosities.

Vulcan was putting away a treasure chest that contained

incredible amount of Asgard gold coins. Watching him, the swordsman looked envious.

“This is absolutely incredible... If it is as you say, then he does not need to worry about running into a wall while training. He does not need to worry about what to do when his current weapon breaks? As for me, I am surrounded by problems that gives me headaches... Ugh... The Players sure have it easy. I’m so jealous! Jealous!”

‘You are the one who live the life comfortably and mindlessly!’

The mage scolded the swordsman like that inside.

The mage felt the urge to tell the swordsman that even Players have hardships of their own. He also wanted to yell and say that Players must be leading life that’s over a hundred times more complicated than the swordsman’s life. However, although the urges came all the way up to his throat, the mage didn’t speak them and cause a fight.

The mage watched Vulcan disappearing toward the merchant district.

Of course, the mage was also envious of Vulcan just the same.

‘I wonder how much he earned... 20 million? 30 million? Hu... Anyway, I cannot even dream of such.’

The mage checked his dimensional space for the money he had. He had a little over 84 Aus.

They were chump change in comparison to what Vulcan earned in the past few days.

‘Just two million.... No... If I had just one million Aus... I won’t have to worry about the research ingredients for a while...’

“I’m envious. I’m so envious.”

The mage unconsciously said those.

Having heard the man, the warrior nodded as if he was agreeing.



“You think so too, right? I’m so envious.”

These two were not the only ones who were jealous of Vulcan.

Of the five who were walking around Espo city, two of them knew about Vulcan and the auction site. One of the two even knew Vulcan’s face.

Naturally, Vulcan was showered by many people’s gaze.

Vulcan regretted not having hid his face in the past out of uncomfortableness. However, his worries didn’t last long.

Only after four days, he received the huge amount of money for selling 200 items through the auction. Now, Vulcan didn’t care at all.

The tip of his mouth was tilted up to the sky. His eyes were smiling so much that they were full of little wrinkles.

He looked so overjoyed like an empty minded person that he definitely looked like someone who just hit the jackpot.

He opened the SYSTEM and checked the amount of money he received.

No matter how many times he read it, he never got sick of it.

’97,061,930 Aus’

It was almost close to 100 million. It was huge.

It was far beyond Vulcan’s initial projection.

This happened because the rumors about the auction spread throughout the entire Act 2 area.

For the first two days, the items were sold at prices that Vulcan expected.

However, starting the third day, numerous people who were contacted by their associates gathered up to Espo City, and the competition became brutal.

By the fourth and final day of auction, there were so many people

there. It was safe to say it was a total chaos. The auction building was not able to have them all inside. In the end, the situation turned to where the visual for the items for auction had to be displayed to outside through magic and proceed with the auction. The situation grew that far.

In the end, Vulcan received a lot more than 30 million that he projected. He received over three times that. In an instant, he joined the ranks of the greatest riches of Act 2.

‘Now, I won’t have any problem with the body enhancement.’

Walking the merchant districts, Vulcan was doing some calculations, but he stopped. Instead, he just peeked a smile.

He realized he had no need to count the money he needed to spend.

‘I have almost 100 million. Why bother worrying?’

Vulcan actually did worry a little.

Vulcan knew very well that the items he had were worth a lot. However, other than the money for body enhancement, he had one other avenue where he needed to spend money on.

However, the things worked out more smoothly than he initially thought. Worrying any more than this was just a waste of time and mind.

‘They were pointless worries... With this much, I can go through the stores and blacksmith shops and still have plenty left.’

Think about the prices?

There was no need.

He intended to pay whatever the sellers called.

There was no need for negotiations unless he was being taken for a fool.

Full of confidence, he stopped in front of a building.

‘Rinnen & Pao’s General Store,’ said the front panel.

‘I heard that this place is the best store since Fowaru closed his shop.’

With no reservation, Vulcan walked into the general store.

Dulkuk.

The interior was very clean.

There were numerous items organized and neatly displayed. At the counter, there was a dragon with glasses. He appeared to be the owner. He was reading the item list.

Unlike the Blue Wind, the dragon was not in human form. Instead, he was doing his business in his god beast form.

‘He must be the owner. He probably has good eyesight, so why is he wearing the glasses?’

Vulcan walked up to the dragon and said in confident voice,

“I heard that I can get not just processed items but also raw materials as well as long as I pay the right price. Is that right?”

“... That’s correct, Sir. However, it will be more expensive to buy here than from an organization. Will that be all right?”

“It’s all right. I would like to purchase all ingredients listed here.”

The paper was long enough to cover the upper half of Vulcan.

The god beast Pao cringed. He received the paper, held it in his small front leg and looked at Vulcan.

‘What is this rascal?’

Pao have heard that a bizarre man appeared at the auction site. However, he didn’t know that this was the man.

So, he could not understand the man’s attitude. He was here as if he thought buying all of these ingredients was like just buying potions. Pao could not help but to think it was odd.

‘Looks like this guy has no concept of money. I bet he spent his entire life only doing magic research.’

Pao checked out Vulcan here and there and said in a blunt tone, “I am very sorry. However, the ingredients here are all extremely rare. Each and every one of them has price that goes beyond anyone’s wildest imagination. You must be trying to do a huge research. However, if you were to purchase all of these, you need at least...”

“At least?”

“... About 3,000,000 Aus.”

Having said that, Pao raised up the glasses that slid down with his front leg and checked the look on Vulcan’s face.

Pao expected a reasonable customer would say he was mistaken and will come back after gathering enough money. Pao expected such a customer to say goodbye after that and leave the store. However...

An unreasonable one could get infuriated and accuse Pao of jacking up the prices.

‘If it is the latter, then that could be a serious headache.’

With anxious mind, Pao waited for Vulcan to speak.

With emotionless face, Vulcan said,

“All right.”

“Pardon... All right?”

“Yes, I said all right. So, 3 million Aus is enough, right?”

“Huh? Ah... Yes. 3 million Aus is enough. Well, it is 2.88 million to be exact...”

“Here.”

Thump!

Clank, clank...

Even before Pao could finish talking, Vulcan brought out big and heavy treasure chests and money pouches.

Pao looked dumbfounded. He stared at them. Meanwhile, with casual look on his face, Vulcan said, “What is it? Please hurry and count them.”

“Ah, yes!”

He rapidly changed to courteous attitude and started counting.

He could not hide the curiosity on his face.

With 3 million Aus, that was enough to purchase one or two of the greatest master pieces by the Act 2’s most skilled makers.

3 million Aus was an incredible amount, the kind that ordinary people of Act 2 couldn’t accumulate even if they tried for several hundred years.

However, the man just tossed the amount as if it was nothing. It was making Pao to doubt his own sense of currency accounting.

‘Just who is this... Of all rich people I know, there isn’t any like him. How could such an ultra-rich suddenly pop up...’

Unable to understand the situation, he furrowed his brows and quickly counted the money.

If he thought just a little bit more, then he would have connected the situation at the auction site with Vulcan. However, Pao was already swept up by the pace coming from Vulcan’s overwhelming financial power.

In the end, Pao could not figure out who Vulcan was. Instead, he received the pre-payment for the items. Afterwards, Pao asked Vulcan to wait for a bit and then went to the basement of the store. He brought a small pouch.

He opened the pouch and told Vulcan,

“The pouch has dimensional space magic. Please check.”

“Hm.”

With his hands to the back, Vulcan watched Pao tumbling around. With an arrogant attitude than the usual, Vulcan said, “Even if I don’t check them, I’m sure you included everything, so I’ll get going now.”

“Ah, yes. Please have a pleasant day. If you need anything else...”

Dulkuk!

“He left.”

It seemed Vulcan was in a hurry. Pao watched Vulcan quickly leaving the store.

He faltered his way back to the counter and plummeted at the seat.

It was as if he was mesmerized by a ghost. It was a strange, inexplicable experience, and so was the man.

The price he paid was astronomical, yet he didn’t even try to bargain. Instead, the man showed such boldness.

With his small front leg, Pao the god beast slapped his cheek lightly and muttered, “This is not a dream, right?”

# Chapter 107 - Showing Off The Money (3)

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‘There was a reason why this place was known to be the best.’

Because so many praised the place, Vulcan didn’t even bother going anywhere else, and it looked like he made the right choice.

Initially, Vulcan didn’t think he could buy the entire list of ingredients from one place.

There were so many types of ingredients. Also, he needed many of each.

So, he was thinking he should go around every store in Espo City. However, he didn’t need to anymore.

‘I was thinking about asking individual peoples in Act 2 if I don’t get them all from the stores, but I saved a huge amount of time now.’

Vulcan felt great. With light steps, he went back to a room he reserved at a inn.

He then opened the inventory and brought out the book called ‘Body Enhancement Secret Technique.’

He glanced at the content. Not only did it have details of dissections of human body, it had all sorts of research drawings and technique’s theories and their fundamental basis and instructions on how to carry out the process. The book was full of such details.

Vulcan shook his head and closed it.

‘I have no idea what any of these means.’

From Beruneru, Vulcan diligently studied magic at a time. However, Vulcan was completely ignorant when it came to such procedures.

If he was to understand the contents of the book, he would have needed to hire a good teacher and dedicate himself on the study for

a long time.

However, Vulcan was no ordinary man.

He had absolutely no reason to walk such a difficult path.

‘I don’t think the effect will improve even if I understood these perfectly anyway.’

Vulcan carefully placed the thick book above the bed.

He then poured out the countless ingredients he purchased from Pao.

Each and every one of the ingredients were strange and disgusting looking. Vulcan had no idea what they were for. Such items covered the bed. Afterwards, a notification from the SYSTEM popped up.

[You acquired all ingredients needed for Legendary-rate Skill – The Body Enhancement Secret Technique.]

[Would you like to proceed with the secret technique?]

[Yes/No]

There was zero chance of failure. Also, there was no negative side effects for acquiring the skill.

Vulcan had no reason to ponder about this.

Without hesitation, he pressed the yes button.

Wooooooooong

Just like when Vulcan upgraded the Heavenly Lightning Blade with the strengthening stone, the ingredients needed for the body enhancement started to exude bright light.

After that, they swirled around, and soon, they clumped up into one. They became a sphere of light.

The light red colored sphere of light felt like a beating heart.

It made Vulcan’s heart also pound and feel excited.



Vulcan wondered if this would be it if so called 'life force' could be expressed visually.

The light sphere was mysterious. It gradually increased in size until it grew to the size of a human head. It then approached Vulcan's heart.

Vulcan flinched for a moment. However, he relaxed soon and accepted it with eased mind.

After that, there were sounds of notifications.

Tiiii ring~

[Legendary-rate Skill – Body Enhancement Secret Technique was successful!]

[Your body's abilities were strengthened.]

[Your combat mastery increased from S to SS.]

[Your weapon mastery increased from S to SS.]

[Your defense mastery increased from B to A.]

[Your evasion mastery increased from S to SS.]

“... Huk.”

The sounds of notifications after the other made Vulcan feel dizzy. He screamed quietly.

The body enhancement was a success. Vulcan should be happy about his strengthened body. However, he was not able to express it.

It was because he was absolutely shocked by the increase in passive skills. They were a lot more than he ever imagined.

Vulcan's heart pounded loudly. His mind was at a disarray.

Vulcan plummeted at the bed. Soon, he lay down there completely.

He tried to organize his thoughts.

‘I never knew it would be this much... Wait. Is it because they were all at the brink of ranking up?’

He figured that must have been the reason.

Although Vulcan called the 100 year labor as just a grinding, they were still combat.

So, it seemed that his combat, weapon, evasion masteries were all at the top end of the S rank.

In that state, the body enhancement technique was completed successfully, and all passive skills broke through the walls and jumped up.

‘As for defense... Well, I avoid more than blocking, and I strike first more than avoiding, so...’

Vulcan didn’t care much about defense’s mastery rank.

However, Vulcan was a little disappointed that his magic mastery didn’t go up.

Still, that was just a small disappointment. Vulcan was extremely satisfied with the result of the process.

“All right.”

Vulcan’s face was full of smiles. Full of energy, he got up and quickly left the inn.

A great fortune had come for Vulcan. It had been a long time since such had happened the last time. Vulcan was excited about this.

Also, that was not the end.

As Vulcan headed to his next destination, he directed his gaze at the Strengthened Heavenly Lightning Blade that was sleeping soundly at his sheath.

‘If I strengthen it once again, what would happen to the name? Heavenly Lightning Blade That was Strengthened Twice?’

Heavenly Lightning Blade +2?’

He had no way of knowing.

“I’ll get to find out.”

Vulcan muttered in exhilarating voice as he quickly walked to the blacksmith shop.

\*

“Yes, Sir. If you would like to request repair on your equipment, please write your name here and place the equipment over there. You must prepay for the repair, and please come back a week later to retrieve the equipment.”

After seeing the man who stood in front of him, the pupil at the blacksmith shop recited the lines as if he was an answering machine.

It was because 999 out of 1000 people who came to the shop were seeking repairs on their equipment.

However, the man shook his head as if he was trying to say that repair was not the goal.

Wondering what it was, the pupil asked,

“You are not here for repairs? By any chance, are you here to manufacture an item?”

It seemed the pupil was surprised.

The blacksmith shop at Espo City was run by Parkers, the God of Blacksmith.

Because the god himself was going to make the equipment, the qualities of the product was obviously going to be top notch. Also, the cost was astronomical, beyond anyone’s wildest imagination.

The shop charged little for repairs for the sake of the residents. However, Parkers was worried about too many requests if he also charged little for manufacturing items as well.

Regardless of reasons, because there weren't many people who could afford such a high price, the pupil was showing such a response.

‘However, his quota is already full.’

Of course, even with the high price tag, there were people who gathered up all of their money from the life savings and requested weapon manufacturing.

There weren't just a few. There were a lot of such people that Parkers could not ignore their numbers.

So, because Parkers hated bothersome work so much, he limited the number of manufacturing work to 30 per month. Now, the quota was already full for the month.

The pupil was going to open his mouth to apologize to Vulcan.

However, Vulcan spoke first.

“No. I’m here to upgrade my equipment.”

“... Pardon?”

The pupil leaned in as if he didn't understand.

So, Vulcan repeated himself with a more clear pronunciation.

“I’m here to upgrade my equipment. This blade and five armors set. There are six in total. Please call God Parkers.”

Vulcan was full of confidence and allowances.

Looking at the man, the pupil cringed slightly. A few who were watching this also showed responses.

“What’s that guy doing? Is he a newbie?”

“Looking at his forehead, I don’t think he is a newbie... He must have heard that strengthening can be done at the blacksmith shop.”

“Still, it looks like he didn’t hear the important part? Did they not tell him about the price tag too?”

“I don’t know. Maybe someone told him about this without the price tag just to mess with him. What a horrible practical joke.”

Everyone was dumbfounded.

However, it was only obvious why they were reacting this way. They knew the high cost of the procedure.

To strengthen one equipment, it cost 10 million Aus.

Parkers said ‘it is far easier to make a new equipment than messing with a pre-existing equipment to improve it,’ so the price tag was jaw droopingly high.

In other words, Parkers was saying ‘I’m not interested in strengthening equipment, so do not ask anymore.’ It was a warning of a kind.

‘Why did God Parkers put such a ridiculous price tag on it...’

The pupil sighed over and over inside.

‘If he didn’t want to do it, he should just tell people that he doesn’t want to strengthen equipment. Why did he place such an absurd price tag on it?’

Because of this, newbies who were misinformed or others who didn’t know much about things kept on coming to shop to ask for strengthening.

The pupil sighed.

‘I feel bad to tell him such a price tag, but... It is my job, so it cannot be helped.’

To tell Vulcan the cost, the pupil looked at him and opened his mouth.

However, again, Vulcan was faster.

Thump

Thump thump thump thump thump

Inventories opened in mid air, and six gigantic treasure chests

dropped from there.

Like a robot who just lost power, the pupil was petrified.

Like that, he just had his eyes wide open and gazed at the treasure chests. With leisurely attitude, Vulcan opened one of them.

Waves of brilliant gold coins inside the chest poured out and made the pupil's eyes feel dizzy.

"Here is 60 million Aus."

"..."

"Please call God Parkers."

Everyone around fell to silence as if they were dead mice.

It seemed everyone was shocked. They were not able to say anything. They just stared at the treasure chests.

However, that was only for a moment.

After about five seconds, everyone started to talk to each other loudly. The conversations spread quickly like a wildfire.

"What the? Is that really 60 million?"

"Is that fake?"

"You crazy dumbass. He even called God Parkers. Do you think it is fake?"

"Huk. Now that I look at him... it is that guy?"

"Who?"

"You know. A few days ago, there was a man who listed several hundreds of A rank items at the auction. That guy!"

"Huk..."

"I wondered how much he made. 60 million... He made 60 million. It is unbelievable..."

The ruckus was endless. Others who became curious started to gather to the blacksmith shop as well.

After that, they found the incredible amount of money there and dropped their jaws.

Some said the man was just showing off his money like a jackass. Some argued that a man could choose to do this if he had strong attachments for the equipment. Such arguments started, and the pupil was standing in middle of all this chaos. He didn't know what to do.

Vulcan panicked a little after seeing the situation unfolding like this.

The envious and jealous gazes of the people were focused on him. They were almost making him feel the burn on his skin.

However, he wasn't just feeling the discomfort from the gaze. Vulcan also felt the excitement that he never felt before in his life.

The discomfort and excitement were there at the same time. Vulcan had a faint smile on his face.

‘Is this the taste of money?’

Vulcan wondered he might get addicted to it.

He escaped his useless thoughts and urged the pupil.

“Excuse me. I'm sorry, but could you please call him soon? I feel uncomfortable with all these gazes.”

“Ah! Yes.”

Vulcan was showing the natural attitude of someone who had things.

The pupil was dazed by that majestic attitude of Vulcan. He panicked, got up and tried to go straight into the shop.

However, he was not able to finish what he set out to do this time either.

“You must be Vulcan?”

Before he was called, Parkers, the God of Blacksmith, came out.

The pupil opened his eyes so wide after seeing Parkers that it looked like his eyes might tear.

Parkers found it bothersome to even just walk around, so he just lied around on his bed for almost 20 hours a day. He also didn't even glance at most things.

However, he moved before even being called for.

'Is the world going insane?'

Stunned, the pupil stood between Parkers and Vulcan.

Vulcan spoke, and the pupil got a grip all of the sudden. He then stepped aside to a corner.

"Yes. I'm Vulcan, but... How did you know my name?"

"Hm. You earned a lot of money."

He didn't even respond to the question. Instead, Parkers walked to the treasure chests.

He didn't even bother to count the money. He just opened his pocket and swept all of the money, Duke Demon Armors set and the Strengthened Heavenly Lightning Blade. Parkers looked at Vulcan and said, "Follow me."

"Pardon?"

"Follow me in to the shop."

"... Yes."

Vulcan saw that Parkers didn't even look back. He just walked into the shop in grumpy steps. Vulcan just watched him.

'The look on his eyes, there's something more to this?'

To say he came out to accept performing the strengthening for Vulcan, the mood was too different from what he expected.

It seemed as if Parkers had something else to discuss. Looking at Parkers, Vulcan tilted his head to the side.



‘Well, I’ll know when I follow him into the shop.’

Vulcan entered the blacksmith shop.

Watching this, after the man disappeared, they started to talk about this in even louder voices. The pupil, with dumbfounded face, went back to his spot and prepared to do his work.

He looked like half of his soul was hanging outside of his body. The pupil muttered, “What just happened?”

\*

# Chapter 108

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The reception room was neatly organized.

It was hard to believe that this room was inside the blacksmith shop which was filled with intense heat. The room was incredibly comfortable to be. At the room, Vulcan was having a private conversation with Parkers.

Vulcan politely had his hands together and sat down as he looked at Parkers.

Parkers had copper tone skin with bulging muscles. He was a giant blacksmith.

[Parkers, Act 2 manager and God of Blacksmith]

[???Lv]

‘As I thought, I cannot see his level still. Do I need to have a level over 1000 to see it?’

It seemed to be the case.

Vulcan gave up on scans. He quietly waited for Parkers to open his mouth.

However, it seemed Parkers was not interested in speaking first.

He just stared at Vulcan with his fearsome looking eyes.

Vulcan complained inside.

‘What the. He called me up here, yet why is he not saying anything. He is not strengthening my items either.’

Vulcan met gods before. However, it was first time for Vulcan to have a private conversation in such a small room.

So, Vulcan was feeling quite uncomfortable. He wished Parkers would just hurry up, finish the talk and just get the items strengthened.

However, after one minute, after five minutes... Parkers was not

speaking. Watching him, Vulcan realized Parkers was not interested in speaking first.

Vulcan carefully started,

“Excuse me...”

“...”

Parkers still just stared at Vulcan in silence.

Vulcan was a little frustrated. However, he realized it could not be helped, so he said, “Excuse me... I would like to know.... Why did you called me to come in.”

“... Hm.”

It looked like Parkers was finally showing signs that he might start talking.

To hear what Parkers was about to pour out, Vulcan tilted his head slightly toward the front.

A god, and not any god but the one who was infamous for being lazy, called Vulcan.

It would had been odd to be not interested in what Parkers had to say.

Soon, Parkers opened his mouth, and heavy low voice filled the reception room.

“It’s done. Let’s head out to strengthen the items.”

Parkers got up with those words as the end.

Vulcan was dumbfounded as he watched Parkers opening the door and leaving.

‘... What is this? Is this the end?’

This went beyond just ridiculous. Vulcan wondered about Parkers’ mental state.

However, Vulcan couldn’t argue with someone who was a god.

Vulcan was shocked, but he suppressed the emotion that came all the way up to his throat and quietly followed Parkers.

Vulcan thought,

‘Even so called gods are not all right up there.’

\*

“Thank you.”

“Hm. All right.”

Vulcan bowed and received the equipment.

They felt like they contained power that was far greater than what they had before. The tip of Vulcan’s lips was about to tilt up slightly, but Vulcan put up an emotionless face and finished saying goodbye.

“Well then, I’ll get going now.”

“All right.”

Parkers also nodded with emotionless face. As Vulcan left the blacksmith shop, Vulcan put up an irked face.

It was because Vulcan could not figure out what Parkers was really up to.

‘How could I know what gods are really thinking.’

Still, it bothered Vulcan, so what could he do?

As he walked, Vulcan thought about various possibilities. He then realized that they were all baseless ideas. Vulcan shook his head.

Vulcan got rid of useless thoughts and started to walk faster.

He wanted to go somewhere that he could be at ease and check out the items that were strengthened.

Vulcan was like a kid who just got money from grandparents during the new year and was heading to the arcade. Vulcan quickly

disappeared, and Parkers watched Vulcan in silence and turned around. Parkers went back inside the blacksmith shop.

When Parkers went back in, a middle-aged man with long brown hair said to him, “How was it to see him in person?”

“Ah, you surprised me. Could you not sneak up on me like that?”

Parkers flinched and complained.

However, the long-haired man in long fabrics didn't seemed to care at all.

The man asked again,

“Was there anything unique about him?”

“Hm. I am not sure.”

Parkers took a pause for a moment and organized his thought.

However, it didn't take long. After a brief moment, parkers answered the man's question.

“He was an ordinary Demi-god.”

“I see.”

“Well, perhaps not an ordinary one. Of all Demi-gods, he was on the quite strong side... Well, still... I didn't feel anything special from him.”

The long-haired man was Hokulus, the supreme manager of Act 2. He nodded his head.

Hokulus had similar thoughts, so he didn't ask Parkers any more questions.

Hokulus said,

“I see. I think so too. Of course, he is a Player who is also a Demi-god, which is unique, but... I don't think he is worthy of the Greatest God's interest.”

“Hm...”

Parkers heard what Hokulus said. The look on Parkers seemed like he was in agreement.

Like that, for a moment, they kept silence.

“...”

The silence continued.

Parkers didn't like this. It felt like the silence was going to continue for an eternity.

It was not because of anything particular. Parkers was not interested in Vulcan anymore. He just wanted to rest now.

Parkers was quite intrigued when he first heard about Vulcan from Hokulus.

The Greatest God rarely spoke to even the gods like Parkers. However, the Greatest God was showing interest in someone who was just a Demi-god.

Of course, it was not like the Greatest God was exceptionally interested in Vulcan, but it was still indeed a special case.

‘So... I thought there must be an incredible secret.’

Because of this, despite Parkers' extreme laziness, he got up himself and observed the man. However, he was not able to find anything special.

As they already discussed, Vulcan was a Demi-god and Player.

Of course, it seemed that Vulcan was known as a human among other humans. However, Parkers didn't care about that.

What was important was that Parkers didn't notice anything special or interesting from Vulcan other than those.

With flat face, Parkers said,

“Okay then, I'll go back?”

Hokulus just stared at Parkers.

Parkers was putting up an emotionless face. However, his gaze didn't hide his desire to wanting to go rest.

'This rascal. He is supposed to be a god, yet he doesn't do anything.'

Hokulus sighed big and said,

"All right. By the way, about that rascal."

"Yes."

"Whose son is he? From how he looks like, I can't think of anyone..."

"Hm."

It seemed Parkers was intrigued. He was about to walk away, but he stopped for a moment and pondered at it.

Like that, he rolled his brain for a few seconds. He then gave a careless response and went into his room.

"Well, because there are so many ones who shoot around, I cannot think of an answer."

\*

Now, it had been two weeks since Vulcan started spending time in Espo City.

When the 15<sup>th</sup> day arrived, Vulcan immediately contacted the Blue Wind and asked how he was. Vulcan heard energetic cursing from the Blue Dragon and confirmed that he recovered his health.

Now, Vulcan was ready to get to his next stage.

However, here were a few things that bothered Vulcan still.

'Fowaru, Chimera.'

Vulcan had set aside enough Vitality Marbles to borrow the power of Yur Dong-bin twice more.

So, he was thinking about cleaning up Fowaru and Chimera

maker before heading to the hunting grounds. However, perhaps Fowaru and Chimera maker felt the danger. They disappeared without a trace like ghosts.

It seemed they used an amazing method. Even the Oracles, the organization that claimed to know almost everything that was happening in Act 2, said they had no information.

The Oracle apologized to Vulcan for the lack of information. Vulcan gave up on tracking down Fowaru and Chimera maker.

They were Vulcan's worst enemies. However, Vulcan could not afford to delay leveling up and go chase them down either.

Thinking about them made Vulcan's inside boil still. However, there was nothing he could do.

Also, there was something else that made him feel infuriated.

'Oracle... Ugh... these bastards.... I can't beat the crap out of them even though I know where they are.'

Vulcan was certain that they fucked him over.

This was not a guess anymore. Vulcan was basically certain of it.

However, Vulcan could not attack Oracle which was stationed inside the Espo City and quietly selling information.

Also, it was also Oracle that told Phantaero where Vulcan was, so, in a way, it could be said that Oracle maintained some level of neutrality.

Of course, regardless of this, Vulcan had quite the animosity and weariness toward the Oracle. However, like the others, there was no way for Vulcan to resolve this one either.

"Ugh."

In the end, Vulcan was not able to eliminate all things that were weighing down on his heart. Still, he was leaving the Espo City so he could get to his next hunting ground.



Vulcan sighed and sighed as he walked through the gate. Out of habit, he opened the equipment window and checked the options on his items.

His bitter stomach calmed quickly. His crumpled face evened at an instant as well.

Vulcan even had faint smiling eyes.

‘Still, the strengthening gave the result I wanted, so that’s good.

[God Legend-rate Weapon – Heavenly Lightning Blade + 2]

[Level Limit: None]

[Mastery limit: Lightning mastery SS or above]

Attack Power +1469

Indestructible

Attack speed + 30%

Movement speed + 15%

Lightning type skill’s attack power + 30%

Lightning type training’s efficiency +30%

Lightning type skill’s mana requirement reduced by 20%

\*A lightning element blade that was said to be bestowed by an ancient god of lightning to a brave hero who saved the humanity. It significantly amplifies the lightning type skills. The blade was strengthened once by the strengthening stone and another time by Parkers, the God of Blacksmith. The blade demonstrates incredible power. It is rivaling weapons of gods.

The Heavenly Lightning Blade showed off incredible attack power of 941 when it was strengthened for the first time. Now, it was multiplied by 1.5, blowing up its stat.

Anyone who could not get excited from seeing this could not be a Player.

This was not the end.

When it came to the blade, it didn't have another rank to rise to, so its rating stayed as God-Legend. However, as for the Duke Demon Armors set, all of them ranked up from Legendary to God-Legend rate.

‘Where did you get such armors exuding intense evil energies?’

Parkers made a negative comment about them, but it didn't matter.

It was not like Vulcan was foolish enough to succumb to their evil energies. Everything was good as long as the armors had superb performances.

Vulcan enjoyed looking at his beloved armors and refreshed his mind. He slowly moved away from the Espo City.

Um...”

After completely leaving the city, from a far distance, he looked back.

The city was giant, but from this distance, he could see the entire city in a single view.

‘When I return, will it be in 50 years? 100 years?’

With sentimental eyes, Vulcan looked at the city for a moment. He then turned around and walked forward.

Now, Vulcan was really almost there.

He overcame most of dangers that really threatened his life. Now, he just needed to focus on enlightenments and leveling up.

Vulcan headed to ‘Origin of Evil,’ a hunting ground with 900 – 920 level monsters roaming around freely.

Along with ‘Temple of the Dragon,’ the place was famous for being the hunting ground with most extreme difficulty.

Vulcan's Demi-god power opposed all evil, hence the place was

perfect for him.

‘Well, I’ve heard that no human had made it that far in past 300 years. Is it that tough? Will I be overdoing it a little... I’ll be all right, right?’

Because of the monsters’ deadly stats, not just humans, but most of other beings didn’t dare to set foot in the place.

So, the Origin of Evil only had the most powerful of dragonians and demi-gods. The place was like the heaven above the heaven where only the strongest gathered.

‘It is not heaven above the heaven. It is heaven above heaven above heaven above heaven... Is that about right?’

Of course, that was not going to make Vulcan back down.

On the contrary, Vulcan was excited with anticipation.

The monsters there were not weak ones like the Lava Demon Forces at the cave. They were going to be powerful enough to keep Vulcan’s hands full even if he fought just one.

Just thinking about it made him full of excitements, and the sensation didn’t stop.

Soon, Vulcan was going to feel the thrill from the battles against powerful monsters.

Vulcan was full of motivation, and he arrived at the Origin of Evil in no time. As if he had nothing to look back, he focused on hunting.

His battles were brutal and obsessive as if he was a fanatic of God Powell.

Even after a year, ten years, and twenty years... His passion continued to burn in full force.

Vulcan developed super human patience from completing 100 years of grinding.

Without anyone to talk to, trapped in the cave, Vulcan had to repeat boring tasks for 100 years. Compared to that, this place was no different from the heaven itself.

Like that, Vulcan spent 100 years at the Origin of Evil.

[Demi-God Vulcan]

[930Lv]

Of The Six at the Beloong city, Berunaru was the second most powerful one, and his level was 921.

After spending 235 years at Act 2, Vulcan obtained power that surpassed even his teacher.

# Chapter 109 - The Final Trial

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“Ugh. Ugh.”

With the sound of heavy breathing, the shoulders were moving up and down rapidly.

Including his forehead, his entire body was drenched in sweats. He had wounds here and there.

To say that he was a powerful Demi-god at level 930, he was in a seriously bad condition.

However, considering that he was standing at ‘Origin of Evil,’ the man should be applauded instead for maintaining this kind of condition.

There were two other Demi-gods who were standing pretty far from the center of the Origin of Evil. They were thinking the same thing.

Vulcan’s battle was intense like endless explosions of bomb storages buildings. The two Demi-gods were extremely impressed.

“He is really amazing.”

“I think such words are not enough to describe him. Now, he is practically the best in this region.”

“Hm. Only a hundred years ago, he was exhausted and faltering after slaying one demon. I remember those days well, yet... A Player really is amazing.”

“It is not that Players are amazing, but that Vulcan is amazing. Other Players are not even able to come up to the Act 2, right? Well, I heard that those other guys are human, not Demi-gods, but...”

“That’s true. I see I unintentionally spoke ill of Vulcan’s hard work. Haha.”

Armed with a sturdy shield and a long spear, Clutus laughed out

loudly.

He was a powerful Demi-god who trained in the art of spear techniques that he learned from his father. He trained for almost a thousand years now. Even in Origin of Evil, a hunting ground that was known to be the most treacherous of all in Act 2, he was considered one of the three most powerful beings.

He had thick blood of a powerful god flowing in his veins. He learned his arts from a god directly. Also, he had been restless in his efforts to reach greater heights. It was obvious why he could rise to be one of the strongest in Act 2.

However, even someone like Clutus was not confident about fighting against Vulcan now.

Like Powell, the God of War, Vulcan was slaughtering demons with ferocity. Watching him gave Clutus the chills.

‘I wonder which god’s son he is... Which powerful gods had black hair like him... I can’t think of one.’

Clutus didn’t know that Vulcan became a Demi-god from being a human through the SYSTEM. So, it was only natural for him to have such a question.

About 20 years ago, Clutus was so curious that he came to ask Vulcan directly. He asked, ‘Who is the great one who gave you the blood of god?’ However, Vulcan just smiled once and continued hunting.

‘Was he born from an affair? There is no need to hide it.’

Well, it was not all that important.

With someone of Vulcan’s potential, it was a certainty that he would rise to the ranks of godhood in no time.

‘Who’s son is he?’ This question mattered only when someone was a Demi-god. After reaching the godhood, it was a useless matter.

Vulcan finished hunting. He was slowly walking toward Clutus. Clutus opened his arms and greeted Vulcan.

“Welcome, my friend! You stopped sooner than the usual. Why did you in such an early hour?”

“What the, what are you two doing here?”

“Watching you fight is far more fun than most entertainment. It is thrilling too.”

Horius, the other Demi-god who was standing next to Clutus, said in response. Vulcan peeked a smile and washed his entire body with water magic. Vulcan plummeted on the ground and said, “It’s been long enough. I should leave this place now.”

“What? You are the training maniac and the king of battles. Why are you...”

Horius expressed his questions.

However, Clutus had a different reaction to Vulcan’s words.

Having heard Vulcan, Clutus had a look on his face. It looked like he was in agreement. Clutus smiled lightly and said, “It looks like you are planning on going to that place as well. Actually, I was going to go there. It would be odd if someone of your caliber didn’t go there.”

“There? Where are you talking about... Ah, has it already been 100 years? Well, I still have a long way to go, so I was not thinking about it.”

Horius instantly put up disappointed look on his face.

This meant that Horius had to say goodbye to two friends he became very close to. That saddened him.

However, it could not be helped.

He could not follow Vulcan and Clutus because he was still lacking in strength to go with them. It was his fault.

With sincerely disappointed look, Horius looked at Vulcan and said,

“I think there’s about ten days left. Are you planning on going already?”

“That’s right. Now, even if I slay the demons here, my level is not going up very well. Also... There isn’t much that I could gain here. Instead of spending the time meaninglessly, I plan to go there sooner and watch at least.”

“In that case, I’ll go with you. Let me at least be chat buddies along the way.”

Clutus took a step forward and said that. Vulcan nodded.

“Well, if you would like.”

“Hey, can’t you be a bit more friendly? We had known each other for 100 years here.”

“During that 100 years, didn’t you ignore me for 20 years?”

“Um, that is...”

Clutus was at a loss for words. He turned his gaze away.

Vulcan saw that Clutus didn’t know what to do. Watching him, Vulcan laughed inside.

‘As I thought, Demi-gods are way more innocent than humans. They are not so thick skinned either.’

Watching Clutus panicking, Vulcan thought about when he first came to the Origin of Evil.

Compared to the other hunting grounds that Vulcan went to before, the difficulty in the Origin of Evil was significantly higher.

Even when Vulcan fought with all of his strength, it was difficult to beat the demons here. They were that powerful. Also, the gazes from others were patronizing him as a newbie.

It felt like how it was when he first arrived at Act 1. While feeling



that way, Vulcan continued the hunt.

The two Demi-gods in front of Vulcan, Clutus in particular, were one of the Demi-gods who had been looking down at him.

Of course, Clutus was not rude to Vulcan like human thugs. However, Clutus sometimes boasted his power and God-legend rate spear techniques that he inherited from his father. In the process, he tossed comments that seemed to indicate that he was looking down on Vulcan.

Of course, such attitude did not last long.

Vulcan was provoked by such treatments, and he grew stronger at terrifying rate.

He diligently leveled up. He became fully aware of his development by thorough examination of his internals. He tried all sorts of things to catch the moment of Enlightenment which could come without any notice at any time.

Like that, Vulcan never wasted even a second. Watching his efforts, the strong warriors of the Origin of Evil, including Clutus, started to acknowledge him. About 50 years later, everyone looked at Vulcan with shocked eyes.

They could not help it.

His unbelievable growth rate could not be compared to anyone else. The growth rate was unique to Vulcan only.

Like that, 80 years passed. By then, Vulcan was strong enough to be counted amongst the top five strongest at the Origin of Evil. Now, nobody at the hunting ground objected to the claim that Vulcan was the strongest among all.

Finally, the strongest beings in Act 2 called Demi-gods and Dragonians acknowledged Vulcan.

‘I think I won’t be needing much help from the Blue Dragon either. Although I think the bastards gave up on me now.’

Clutus was still hesitating around. Vulcan left him be and opened the inventory to see the inside.

Again, the inventory was full of Vitality Marbles.

However, now Vulcan didn't have much use for them.

Vulcan was strong enough to not need to borrow the power of Yur Dong-bin.

It was no longer a simple matter of pride.

Vulcan was powerful enough to handle any ambush with a smile, even if it was someone like Fowaru.

‘So... I am more than qualified to go to the Final Trial.’

Vulcan had a look that was full of confidence.

With that proud attitude, Vulcan looked at Clutus and said,

“So, are you going to head out now?”

“Um. Since the topic came up, shall we get going now? I am also sick of this place. I am sorry for Horius, but I'm also beyond this place now.”

“What?”

“Haha, I'm just joking, my friend.”

Horius huffed and puffed in exaggerated ways and approached Clutus. Horius pretended to punch Clutus in the pit of the stomach, and Clutus rolled on the ground with while making a noise as if he was gasping for air.

Looking at them, Vulcan laughed. Using telekinesis magic, he had Clutus stand up and then used the Thunder God's Might.

Vulcan said,

“Well then, good bye, Horius. Clutus, let's go right away since we are talking about it.”

“Oh my... It is hard to meet another who is more impatient than

I. All right. Let's go now."

Clutus dusted off his butt and looked at Horius. Clutus said,

"Your Big Bro will be heading out first. When I return as a god, then you need to speak to me in honorary language."

"Maybe Vulcan can become a god, but it might be too early for you to try."

"You rascal!"

"Hey, I already can't even see Vulcan. Why don't you go follow him already?"

"Ah. I'm really going now! So long!"

Kwang!

Leaving a huge crater behind, Clutus flew away like a cannonball.

Covering above his eyes with his hand, Horius watched Clutus leaving. Horius muttered by himself, "If it is those two, I'm sure they can get past the place with ease."

\*

In Act 2, if anyone asked for the field where the strongest monsters appeared, people usually picked two places to mention.

There was the Origin of Evil where the ancient demons appeared. There was also the Holy Temple of Dragons, the place where beings who inherited a part of the ancient dragons resided.

Instead of just talking about the fields, if they were to also talk about dungeons, then there was one more place that people could mention. This place's difficulty was more horrendous than these other places.

The place had an official name, 'Light inside Darkness.' However, it was a place that everyone had to get through in order to clear the Act 2. So, the place was often called the 'Final Trial.'

The place was full of greatest calamities that may never occur

again in the world. It was a horrible place. However, in midst of all these difficulties, there were all sorts of devices prepared inside to stimulate Enlightenment. So, it could be said that all top-notch warriors of Act 2 were eager to enter this place.

However, a place so dangerous and important could not be open to just anyone.

So, the entrance to the Final Trial was allowed only after passing a simple test given by Honus, the younger brother of the Act 2's Supreme Manager Hokulus. That test was not given all the time either. It happened only once every 100 years.

"I heard that after about 100 years, some who had been inside the Trial give up and come out. We will be filling those empty spots."

Clutus told Vulcan about things that he learned from his father.

Vulcan heard about this from Filder, so he was aware of this. However, Vulcan wondered if anything had changed since, so he stayed quiet and listened.

However, it seemed no big change had occurred. So, Vulcan haphazardly listened to Clutus's explanation. Meanwhile, Vulcan was deep in useless thoughts of his own.

'... Filder said he endured 1500 years in this place. As for Beruneru... he said he came out after just 90 years.'

Although Vulcan was full of confidence, he could not help himself but to worry. After all, that tough old man ran off from the place before even filling 100 years.

Of course, Vulcan now possessed strengthened equipment, advantage of being a Demi-god and the Blue Dragon's Breath. Vulcan could say that he was significantly more powerful than Beruneru. However, still, it could not be helped that a corner of his mind was bothered by this.

Vulcan took a deep breath. He then tossed a question to Clutus.

“What’s Honus’s test? I heard there isn’t supposed to be any test.”

“What? Are you talking about 1500 years ago? In the past, that was the case, but gradually over time, bunch of rascals who do not know their places came to cause ruckus and asked to be let in. So, God Hokulus asked God Honus to only allow those who are worthy to enter.”

“So, I’m asking you what that test is.”

“About that, instead of hearing an explanation, it would be better to experience it... Um.”

Clutus stopped talking and stopped walking.

He looked serious when he looked at Vulcan.

Also with a hardened look on his face, Vulcan looked at Clutus and nodded.

“This must be the test.”

“Yes. This incredible pressure... Hm. It looks like others are feeling it too.”

After hearing what Clutus said, Vulcan looked around.

There were numerous other beings who were headed to the Final Trial with the same goal as Vulcan and Clutus.

They all crumpled their faced in unison and hesitated about going any further.

In fact, some started to take steps back. Some ran off and never looked back, which was embarrassing.

“Haha. Look at that. How embarrassing. No matter how fearful one gets, to think he would run away like that while throwing away his pride... He appears to be still lacking the abilities.”

Clutus put up an exaggerated laughter and pointed at the one who was running away.

Only a moment ago, he looked petrified. Now, the expression on his face and his movements were a lot smoother.

However, from how Vulcan saw them, they were not signs of being relaxed and having the nerves to spare. It looked like Clutus was just bluffing.

It seemed Clutus realized Vulcan was on to him. Clutus did a few rounds of fake coughs and put on embarrassed look on his face.

“That’s right. It is bothering me a little too.”

“I think this one will be definitely tough to get through.”

Clutus nodded and agreed to Vulcan’s words.

Vulcan retracted his gaze from Clutus and directed it at where the deadly aura was coming from. It was toward where the Final Trial was.

The energy was terrifying. It felt like tens of thousands of blades were stabbing his skin.

‘It must be that only those who could continue and reach the place will earn the right. This is tough.’

It was going to take the kind of courage it would take a person to place his face directly toward a needle that was slowly coming at one’s eye. In fact, it was more like leaning in the face while at it.

Except those who had toughened their bodies to the point of being counted among the top in the Act 2, others would never be able to close the remaining one kilometer to the Final Trial and just turn back.

Of course, the test was not so tough that it would bend Vulcan’s will.

Step after another step, Vulcan walked forward as if there was no problem.

Clutus watched the man for a while. Clutus shouted,

“Hey! Don’t go by yourself! Let’s go together!”

With his face crumpled, Clutus quickly caught up to Vulcan by walking faster.

While watching the two, a few others sighed and turned around to head back. Others gritted their teeth and moved forward one step at a time.

However, they could not surpass Vulcan and Clutus.

# Chapter 110 - The Final Trial (2)

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Vulcan and Clutus were the two warriors who competed for the title of the strongest at the Origin of Evil, one of the most difficult hunting grounds in Act 2.

Others behind them were already having hard time catching their breath even though they were only experiencing the test to enter the Final Trial. The difference in caliber between the others and the two men were significant. The difference was the overwhelming kind that they could never make up for at the moment.

Like that, countless beings who had been following behind Vulcan and Clutus started to give up approaching the Final Trial one after the other. By the time Vulcan and Clutus came to their senses, the two were the only ones left.

Vulcan said,

“They all disappeared.”

“Yes. Ugh. There was one guy who was still following about five minutes ago. I think he was the last one.”

“Even at a first glance, they all had long ways to go before they would be qualified to come here...”

The tone of Vulcan’s voice indicated that he was puzzled by these other beings’ decision to challenge the Final Trial. Clutus said, “It probably means they are in that much of desperate situations. Ugh. Ugh.”

“Still, I never thought there would be this many unqualified ones who won’t even be able to endure the Origin of Evil.”

“That place is open for anyone anytime, so... Ugh.”

Exchanging banters, Clutus breathed harshly.

As they approached closer to Honus, the one who managed the



Final Trial, the pressure felt stronger and bigger.

Clutus's reaction could be said as something only natural.

However, Vulcan appeared to still have some nerves to spare just like how he was at the very beginning when they first felt the deadly aura. Looking at Vulcan, Clutus felt like he was the one who was lacking in abilities.

Vulcan was marching forward with bright lights surrounding him. Vulcan looked like a god of lightning. Looking at the man, Clutus burned his competitive spirit.

‘I am behind you now, but... I’ll reach the godhood faster than you when I enter the Final Trial!’

Grinding his teeth, Clutus tightened his muscles as he followed closely behind Vulcan.

Like that, a bit of time passed, and they were able to arrive at the destination safely.

Vulcan still had nerves to spare. As for Clutus, he was not as leisurely as Vulcan, but he also still had some strength left. Honus saw that the two men made it to where he was. Honus smiled.

It was because he was proud to see the accomplishments of two Demi-gods.

To Gods, most Demi-gods were either their children or nephews or nieces. In fact, they received some preferential treatment by the Gods.

Of course, because they were Gods, they could not afford to form an atmosphere where they were discriminating against the children of other beings. So, the Gods were always careful. Still, it could not be helped that Honus was happy.

He didn't hide his joy as he bestowed Vulcan and Clutus with his godly power.

The pressure that they felt until now disappeared as if it was

simply washed away. Clutus breathed big.

He said he finally felt like living. He swung his arms around big and relaxed his body. He looked at Vulcan and said, “I’m going to get some sleep. Vulcan, let me know when it is time for us to enter.”

“Why did you come here early?”

“So I can come here with you. Anyway, I’m going to sleep.”

As soon as he finished saying that, Clutus fell asleep. He was snoring loudly and energetically. Looking at the man, Vulcan shook his head.

‘Does one sleep longer after becoming a Demi-god? I think Tolcas was like this too.’

Because Vulcan had well established habit of training while even minimizing the time for sleep, Vulcan could not quite understand this particular behavior by the Demi-gods.

Vulcan thought Clutus was being foolish. He gave Clutus a quick glance and then looked around the area.

However, there wasn’t anything special that caught his attention.

Vulcan expected a huge gate for the dungeon. However, there was no such thing. Also, there wasn’t anyone here who arrived before them.

It seemed that Vulcan and Clutus were the first two to arrive.

‘Well, we did come here a little sooner.’

Vulcan looked at a few trees around the area. He walked toward Honus who was exuding his powerful intensity while having his eyes closed. However, Vulcan was concerned that he might look arrogant if he did, so he stopped.

After that, just like Clutus, Vulcan just lay down and rested comfortably for the time being.

‘It’s not bad to rest. It’s been a while, so.’

Vulcan looked up the clear and bright sky and waited for the others to arrive.

Like that, a few days went by.

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“I think this must be everyone. Um. Is the Blue Dragon not going to come this time either?”

Honus looked around and mumbled.

Honus brushed down his long-grown beard. He stopped exuding his powerful aura. He started to carefully observe each and everyone who made it this far.

There were 29 of them in total.

That was a lot more than how it was 100 years ago.

‘It looks like their calibers are increasing and increasing. Last time, there were 15, so...’

Honus nodded and put on satisfied smile.

Many from the lower dimensions were summoned to Asgard for the purpose of raising as many powerful warriors as possible. So, sudden increase in number of talented individuals arriving at the Final Trial was something to be welcomed.

However, Honus soon wiped off the smile from his face. Instead, he put up a stern look.

He was trying to preserve the grace as a God and the manager of the Light inside the Darkness. With cold gaze, he looked into the eyes of everyone and said, “Welcome. You have broken through hardships and adversities and reached this place. I, Honus, would like to express my respect for you all. To make it this far, you must have worked hard with iron will and continued your trainings despite the difficulty and monotony. I applaud your efforts once again. As you all know, this place leads to the light inside the

darkness...”

There were 29 of warriors who possessed mid-level god powers. To listen to what Honus said, they perked up their ears and corrected their poses to be respectful.

Of many managers in Act 2, Honus was one of the most powerful Gods.

Nobody wanted to look bad in front of him, so they all heeded to his words.

However, after 10 minutes, 20 minutes and almost after an hour, Honus didn't finish his speech. One after the other, the ones gathered here started to lose focus.

From how they looked outside, they looked perfectly fine with nothing out of the order.

On average, each and every one of the individuals here had gone through excruciating trainings for over thousand years and went through over hundred chaotic messes. So, they could manage to not embarrass themselves by ruining their balance while listening to the long speech.

However, how they were feeling inside was no different from elementary school children who were listening to long lectures from the school principal.

They started to listen to Honus's words in one ear and let it out the other ear.

“.. So, we are able to stand here today thanks to the blessing from the Greatest God, and without his care, we would all be living terrifying days in pain and suffering under the grasp of horrible demons of the demon world. The Greatest God is not the only one we should be thankful to. Through the sacrifice by the Great Ancient God of Lightning Jerumong...”

His speech really was long.

His speech started with applauding everyone for making it this far. He then talked about the background and history for the creation of the light inside the darkness, and the speech lead to praising the Greatest God who made this place and other magnificent Gods. Now, Honus was even talking about each and every individuals who achieved Enlightenment from this place and rose to the ranks of Godhood.

It looked like Honus was boasting about all pupils he taught. Everyone complained inside as they listened. However, nobody voiced their complaints out loud.

It could not be helped. Honus was in charge. No matter how unreasonable Honus was, everyone there had no choice but to comply.

This included Vulcan and Clutus.

Clutus said 'finally' for the 21<sup>st</sup> time. They desperately hoped that Clutus really meant it this time. They put on sparkling eyes for the show.

It was excruciatingly painful to hear the speech.

His speech felt like it would go on forever, but it ended like that.

Everyone applauded loudly like thunder. Honus had a faint smile on his face.

For a moment, he enjoyed everyone's gazes and attention. He then raised his right hand and quieted down the applauds.

After that, he focused hard, hard enough to crumple his brows. He used both of his arms to draw a large circle.

A black portal, large enough for one person to go through, was created in the air.

Zukushoooooooooung

It was dark. It reminded of an entrance to hell.

Although they had been calling the place ‘Light inside the Darkness,’ there was no sign of light. Instead, only desperate darkness filled it.

‘Are we supposed to find the light ourselves after going in?’

Vulcan thought it won’t be easy, but he thought it would be far more dangerous than what he expected. Vulcan’s face stiffened.

However, he didn’t hesitate or act like he was lacking the backbone.

If it was the version of Vulcan from Rubel Continent, then he might have given up here.

However, he was a completely different existence now.

He was not so weak that he would take steps back from facing this much sense of danger.

Of all 29 individuals gathered here, Vulcan stepped forward first and approached the portal.

“Huk.”

“Oh.”

Everyone else finally got a grip of themselves and also headed toward the portal. However, they already lost the lead to Vulcan.

They felt defeated somehow by Vulcan. They shook their bodies lightly and focused their gazes on the back of Vulcan.

After that, they wondered,

‘Just who is that? That man...’

‘I have heard of others here at least through the rumors, but I don’t know this man at all... A Demi-god? By any chance, is he a human?’

Vulcan had been hunting at the Origin of Evil for 100 years, and he was able to obtain some fame in comparison to the past. However, nobody recognized him except a few.

There were just Clutus and three others from the Origin of Evil who trained with Vulcan. They were the only ones who nodded as if this made sense.

From how others saw it, Vulcan, who was someone completely unexpected, charged ahead of them, so they were surprised. Although they did not let their wariness be noticeable, they filled their eyes full of caution and checked Vulcan.

A few impatient ones were unable to stand still. It was as if they were wanting to go test Vulcan's strength right now.

The place was getting heated up rapidly because of Vulcan's sudden move.

If it was not for Honus who was standing next to the portal with his majestic presence, the atmosphere may have led to a duel immediately.

However, Vulcan didn't care at all about the mood. He just walked toward the portal.

He didn't want to waste his time on such a meaningless duel.

'I wonder what the monsters' levels are inside... Filder said it was tough for him, so the monsters must be around 1000 levels? I can't wait.'

For a long while now, Vulcan only had been slaying monsters who were below his level. So, nothing intrigued him more than a new hunting ground.

So, he ignored everyone and leaned in to the portal.

Actually, he tried to, until he was denied of entrance to the place by Honus.

"... What is it? Is there a problem?"

In respectful tone, Vulcan asked Honus.

Vulcan had excited face, so the tone of his voice was unbecoming and even laughable. However, Honus did not relax the serious look

on his face.

Overall, the look on his face felt like Honus was someone who must do this by the book without any deviation from the order of things.

Wondering if he did something wrong, Vulcan tilted his head to the side. Vulcan asked again, “By any chance, did I do something wrong...”

“Who said the test was completely over?”

“Kuk.”

Cold and sharp intensity, like blizzard storm, exuded from Honus.

Vulcan faced it directly. He moaned lightly and tumbled back. Soon, he retreated all the way back to where the other 28 were.

Vulcan looked defeated.

Also, the others had similar look on their faces.

It could not be helped.

Nobody heard that there were two tests by Honus, the manager of the Final Trial.

With anxious looks on their faces, they looked at Honus’s face.

After a moment, Honus’s majestic voice gently echoed through the area.

“It seems everyone is surprised. I can understand that. If it was like before, then making it this far would have been enough to allow you to enter. You all possess such superb caliber to allow that. Your abilities are worthy of respect. However... We have a problem now because more than I expected had arrived.”

“...”

“Only a limited number of individuals can enter. So, only 15 of you can enter. As for the rest, you will all have to wait until the



next time.”

“In that case, how are you going to select the 15?”

Clutus asked as he raised his spear on the right hand high in to the air.

Everyone looked toward him and welcomed his question.

It was because he properly cut the flow of Honus’s speech. It looked like Honus was about to embark on yet another long speech, so everyone welcomed Clutus’s move.

Watching Clutus overflowing with fighting spirit, Honus smiled lightly.

‘His father Parkers is a complete lazy bum, but still, this rascal is the type with full of energy. It is not bad.’

Honus took a moment to form an opinion about Clutus and lowered his gaze.

Many individuals were looking at Honus with concerned eyes. They were worried about what Honus was going to say.

With strength in his eyes, Honus looked at the warriors who were gathered here. Lastly, he directed his gaze at Vulcan and said quietly, “Duels obviously.”

# Chapter 111 - The Final Trial (3)

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Wheeeeeooooong

The club was swung with ferocity.

It was incredibly destructive. It made one wonder if Theseus in the legends of gods was like this. By the giant's attacks, the surrounding was destroyed.

There were numerous craters everywhere as if the area was hit by carpet bombing.

The 27 would-be gods, including Vulcan, watched the violent battle. They each indulged in useless thoughts of their own.

‘Maybe it would be rude to compare the man to Theseus.’

That probably was the case.

If given enough time, the beings gathered here each had enough power to destroy a planet.

Comparing such ridiculous power to Theseus was a ridiculous idea.

However, even among such astonishing beings, difference in power did exist.

In the end of intense battle, the decision was made.

The woman with voluptuous body, who had been on the defense until the very end, achieved the victory.

As for the giant who had been charging forward like a mad bull while swinging his club, he shook his body in deep disappointment.

However, he did not make any excuses.

If she wanted, she could have killed him. The giant knew this.

There was a faint wound on his neck, and a thin stream of blood was flowing down. The giant wiped it off.

After that, with heavy and disappointed steps, he disappeared to somewhere.

Other would-be gods watched his sad look on his back. Nobody was able to say anything.

They were feeling the anxiety because look of that giant's back could very well be themselves soon.

That fact weighed heavily down on them, and that led to solemn atmosphere at the arena.

Of course, that did not apply to Demisula, the female Dragonian who achieved victory in the first duel.

She had overjoyed look on her face. She came back to where other would-be gods were gathered. Now, with the look of a perfect spectator, she plummeted down.

Only 15 were allowed inside the Final Trial. Meanwhile, there were 29 here.

In other words, the participants only needed to win once to pass immediately.

So, Demisula was able to watch the others' duel with lightened heart.

Everyone looked at her with envy.

Everyone did, including the two warriors who were about to fight their duel, and others who were not getting ready because their turns were still far away.

However, Clutus was an exception.

He had comfortable face. There was not even a shred of nervousness in him. He explained his impression about the duel just now.

“She is super strong. She is even on par with me. How come I had never seen her before when she is so strong? Was she staying only at the Holy Temple of Dragons?”

“Hey, mind the mood and be quiet, will you?”

“All right.”

Clutus was scolded by Vulcan.

However, Clutus was not upset about being scolded at all.

In fact, the situation was that he was happy enough to allow and get past anything that Vulcan could have said to him.

With happy face, Clutus shrugged his shoulders and focused on the front.

It was to watch the duel that was to happen next.

Vulcan watched Clutus's behavior with dumbfounded look.

‘Of all people, this guy got the lucky win by default...’

Vulcan was not liking it.

Of course, the number of warriors gathered here was not exactly 30. So, from the start, there was going to be one lucky winner by default. However, of all people, it was Clutus.

Vulcan felt like someone who was having a heartburn from jealousy because his relative bought lands. Vulcan withdrew his gaze away from Clutus.

After that, the second duel started.

Again, this duel was held with serious and heavy mood.

The Final Trial opened only once every 100 years, so everyone here entered the duel with desperate heart. They could not help it.

So, from the very start of the duel, everyone fought the duel with everything they had. They did not fool around to gaze up each other. This led to quick conclusions for the duels.

Fortunately, no serious injuries occurred.

It was because there was a definite difference in abilities between the two who entered the duel.

The winner appropriately adjusted down the strength to accommodate the loser. The loser felt the shortcomings and promptly accepted the outcome.

Vulcan watched the duels and realized Honus' intent.

'He arranged the matches while already having a clear distinction of stronger and weaker groups.'

Vulcan was able to check levels of the warriors, so he could feel this with greater certainty. Vulcan nodded as if he agreed with Honus' method.

If the match up were done in random and the estimated second most powerful warrior lost to the most powerful one, then that would have felt incredibly wrong.

Vulcan thought that match ups were assigned to avoid such a disaster and to make it so that the disqualified ones would not feel regrets either.

"Hm."

Actually, from Vulcan's perspective, it didn't matter how it was matched up.

Vulcan was confident that he could beat anyone here.

If there was someone of Blue Wind the Blue Dragon's caliber with top end of 900 level, then Vulcan would not have dared to think this way. However, the ones gathered here were not as powerful.

While watching the Demi-god who was going to be his opponent, Vulcan hoped his turn, which was the very last duel, would come soon.

The Demi-god was not even glancing at Vulcan. Instead, he was meditating to prepare for the battle to come.

His heavy and grand intensity was naturally rising up around him. They were enough to make others' skin numb.

Vulcan instantly thought about the Beloong City's The Six, and of

them all, he thought about Heywood, Folken and Logweed who were considered warriors of physical combat.

Compared to the three, the opponent in front of him was far stronger.

However, Vulcan was even stronger.

It was not that he was a little above this Demi-god. Vulcan was confident that he could achieve overwhelming victory in ten out of ten battles.

Having thought this far, Vulcan peeked a smile.

Vulcan used to be just a greenhorn with level 99. Now, even though he was facing an opponent who surpassed some of The Six members, Vulcan was feeling so leisurely.

It felt strange. Somehow, it made him feel the tears zapping through his eyes.

It was not like Vulcan already achieved the godhood. He still had long ways to go.

Despite that, Vulcan felt that he had no need to worry about such things. Such sensation suddenly filled inside Vulcan's heart.

The path forward was perfectly paved now. Vulcan was certain that he was merely walking toward the future that was already set.

Vulcan closed his eyes for a moment and calmed his emotions.

Afterwards, he smiled even bigger than the last time.

‘A confidence like this... It's been so long.’

It was a bit awkward, but it did not feel bad.

Until his turn, Vulcan enjoyed the full dose of this positive emotion. Vulcan opened his eyes slowly only when he was called by Honus.

He saw Honus and fourteen other would-be gods who had their results.

Also, there was the Demi-god with level 908 who was his opponent. He was watching Vulcan.

In Act 2 where fiends of all fiends gathered, this Demi-god was powerful enough to be placed on the top.

However, in Vulcan's eyes, the Demi-god did not look all that amazing.

The Demi-god was definitely someone who would be showered with others' respect, jealousy and envy. Despite these, that's how Vulcan felt.

Also, it seemed Vulcan was not the only one who was having such thoughts.

The gazes from other 14 would-be gods...

They had high expectations for Vulcan, the one who overcame the terror exuded by the Light inside the Darkness and took the very first step before anyone else. Their expectations were being poured on Vulcan.

The response was incredible. It was like something for the participant of a tournament who was expected to win.

Naturally, the opponent in front of Vulcan ended up with the role of the underdog.

Karugos, the Demi-god who read this mood, stiffened the look on his face and bit his lower lips.

It was hurting his pride.

'Ever since I was born a Demi-god, I think this kind of treatment is a first for me in a thousand years.'

He was not used to this, so it was spoiling his mood even more.

Of course, he did recognize that his opponent looked incredible.

Karugos was active in some place other than the Origin of Evil, so he didn't know about Vulcan in detail. However, he noticed that

Clutus, who he knew as someone with very strong pride, was giving in to Vulcan. That fact alone was enough for Karugos to guess just how strong Vulcan was.

However, he did not lose yet.

Once the duel is decided for sure, Karugos was then going to respect Vulcan's strength and leave this place without regrets.

However, he could not stand the atmosphere. It felt like the result was already decided when the duel had not even begun.

Karugos was not here to uplift the opponent in front of him.

As a proud Demi-god, and as someone who would reach the godhood soon, Karugos had come this far.

In calm, low voice, Karugos said,

“Will it be all right if we began?”

“... All right. Please get started.”

It seemed Honus also felt Karugos' resolution. In sincere voice, Honus let them know the duel had started.

Immediately, Karugos' both arms exuded mysterious silver light like explosions.

Huuuuuuung.

The ferocious energy was waving around like flames.

Other would-be gods who had been focusing only on Vulcan looked at Karugos with surprised eyes. Some of them gasped for air.

Surrounding Karugos' arms, the energy was growing like stalactite. It felt incredibly grand.

It felt majestic and heavy as if it was a sword of a supreme commander that was forged by the hands of the greatest blacksmith.

Overall, Karugos looked sturdy and without any gap in defense.



Watching him, a few started to talk.

“He is more incredible than I thought? I thought that other side would win for sure.”

“This is amazing. Still, I think Vulcan would win...”

“Ah, so that man is the one in the rumors. Well, I agree with you, but...”

“I see. I think the duel will go on longer than we expected.”

Their conversations reflected that their opinions' on Karugos had gone up all of the sudden.

Having heard their words, Karugos tilted the tip of his lips up slightly. However, the look on his face changed to the emotional look soon.

Karugos had revealed his full power. Despite this, nobody had changed their predictions on who would win. This fact hurt his pride once again.

Karugos ground his teeth hard enough to make noises. He then stared at Vulcan's side.

Vulcan was still standing as if he had a lot of margin to spare. He looked relaxed.

To point out one thing that did change, Vulcan had drawn his blade from the sheath and had steady golden light around his entire body.

Vulcan looked arrogant. From the looks of him, Karugos thought Vulcan was not weary of his opponent at all.

In the end, Karugos was not able to stand the anger. He strained his lower body.

He was planning to charge in at once like a spring and deal a strike against that leisurely face.

Karugos opened his eyes big and glared at Vulcan as he thought,

‘Let’s see if you can still have that look on your face after this attack!’

However, the situation did not flow in the direction he thought.

It was when his leg muscles had swelled up like beasts and he was just about to charge in.

Karugos instantly felt Vulcan’s face being enlarged. Karugos panicked.

‘What the!’

The speed was so fast that even Karugos could not recognize it!

It made him wonder if Vulcan stopped the time itself and then moved. Witnessing this scene, Karugos opened his eyes big enough to tear the lids.

Toward Karugos who was in such a state, Vulcan swung his Heavenly Lightning Blade.

Karugos was shocked once again by the deadly attack which was like the lightning from the sky. He quickly crossed his arms and raised them up above.

The power of Demi-god that he had gathered up for attack were mostly sent to his arms which were going to collide with the blade. The rest of the power was absorbed in the muscles across his entire body to prepare for the aftermath of the collision that would happen soon.

His response was very quick. It was enough to impress others who were watching the battle.

It was a very fluent response. It was hard to believe that this was someone who lost the chance of the first strike to Vulcan.

However...

Karugos was not aware of something.

For the past 100 years, Vulcan had been dealing attacks at the

Origin of Evil without ever resting for even a day. He was not aware just how sharp Vulcan's attack was.

Also, Karugos was not aware of how powerful the twice strengthened Heavenly Lightning Blade that Vulcan wielded was.

Slice..

Slice...

Loud noise that was expected from the collision of huge powers did not happen at all.

Instead, what happened sounded like something expected from a skilled executioner when he cuts off the heads of the death row inmates. The creepy sound went past the ears of the would-be gods, and...

Thump...

Thump...

Sounds of two lumps of flesh dropping to the ground pierced into their ears once again.

They were very quiet sounds, but they echoed in the others' brains as if they were powerful sounds of thunders.

They gulped and looked at Vulcan and Karugos.

“...”

Vulcan was standing still. He looked like he would cut off the top of Karugos' head at any moment.

Meanwhile, Karugos was soaking the ground with his blood after having lost both of his arms.

Karugos even forgot the pain coming from his arms. Instead, he stared at Vulcan with hopeless look on his face.

“Ugh. Ugh.”

Nothing in particular came out of his mouth.

He only had hopeless laughter in disconnect.

Like that, for one to two seconds, Karugos looked into the eyes of Vulcan. Karugos could not tell what was the insides of Vulcan. After staring at Vulcan eyes like that, Karugos closed his eyes.

It was the attitude of someone who completely acknowledged his defeat.

Honus, the one who had been calmly watching the entire situation, said, "Vulcan wins."

## Chapter 112 - The Final Trial (4)

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Shortly after that, with their breaths bursting out of the would-be gods' mouths, they looked frightened.

They were greatly shocked by the godhood that Vulcan had showed.

Of course, although they had guessed that he was strong since the first portal held, there was a difference between guessing and revealing that it was a clear fact.

Watching Vulcan sheathing the blade in a neat posture, they exchanged words.

“That’s impressive...”

“I’ve heard Vulcan is a swordmage... he wields the blade as sharply as those who have wielded for life,”

“I wonder what level of his power is,”

“Um...”

The duel ended in an instant, but the impression lingered quite long and led to excitement.

Clutus, who saw the expression, raised the corner of his mouth, invisibly to others.

A laugh with mixed emotions of joy and bitterness.

He disguised himself with an expressionless face and looked in the direction of Vulcan.

‘Even I, who had seen him often, was a little surprised, how surprised would others be,’

Clutus’s eyes burned like fire.

He was also one of the would-be gods who got excited over the duel.

He got even more excited than others.

Each of the would-be gods fought a duel, but as a result of winning by default, he did not.

‘It was not something to get excited over,’

His body shook with disappointment and turned away in the direction to the black portal.

He still felt fear, but his desire for a big battle was bigger and had been absorbed in his body.

He could not wait any longer.

“Hm,”

It seemed Clutus’s mind was peeped into.

Honus, who affixed Karugos’s cut-off arms by using his godly power, cleared his throat.

Like that, he gathered all the would-be gods’ attention and slowly began to speak.

“It seems it has been all decided,”

“...”

Karugos left the place with a depressed look, but no one turned their head in the direction of him.

Everyone focused their gaze only on Honus.

15 of would-be gods remained silent, hoping that his speech would not be long.

Honus’s speech happened not to be long.

“As I said earlier, you are able to leave at any time, but not able to re-enter. Unlike the past, there are a lot of beings who want to enter... It is to give a chance to as many beings as possible. If you think you can’t stand long, give it up now. Well, of course, it looks like no one wants to give it up, hm.”

After saying this far, Honus clapped once, then paused.

And after taking a few steps away from the portal, finally he spoke to the would-be gods.

“I will give 15 of you, who are gathered here, access to the Light inside the Darkness,”

Even as he finished speaking, the would-be gods started to move their bodies.

Because, after seeing Vulcan’s duel earlier, they got a big stimulus.

They wanted to enter the portal quickly, in order to start training.

Before long, a man stood in front of the portal first.

He was holding a shield and a spear with a determined look.

It was Clutus.

‘Although I’m behind others...’

Just before entering the portal, he took one look at Vulcan standing at the back.

Vulcan’s face, as if looking somewhere far away, came into his eyes.

He gently bit his lower lip.

‘By the time you leave, the story will be quite different,’

After finishing the thought, he threw his body toward the portal.

The black portal that capriciously bobbed up and down swallowed him up like an anglerfish.

It looked like the mouth of a monster that wanted more food.

However, that had little affect the would-be gods who entered with iron will.

They went into the final trial like a row of sausages.

Each face was full of courage, hope, and passion.

Vulcan, who entered lastly, was no different from them.

For a time, he was lost in thought in front of the blackish, circular portal.

‘By the time I leave, I’d feel confident enough to take Hokulrus’s test,’

He wouldn’t know what the test was about, but it didn’t matter.

No test was a problem as long as he could reach the four-digit level.

After finishing his thoughts, he went into the Light inside the Darkness.

Then, ‘Shuuuuc,’ the black portal shrunk and disappeared without trace.

Honus stood speechless, as he watched it, stroking his long beard.

It looked like a huge tree that had put down its roots for a long time.

Honus, who had been deep in thought for a long while, muttered.

“The most promising being of this period is Vulcan,”

He thought it was not bad.

He heard of Vulcan from his brother Hokulrus.

Though being only a Demi-god, Vulcan was directly mentioned by the Greatest God.

However, he was told that Hokulrus was not sure how Vulcan could obtain the Greatest God’s interest.

He seemed to agree with that.

Vulcan was showing a tremendous growth rate, but that was all.

It was not so impressive for him who was a god from day one.

Of course, he was not to disparage Vulcan as a being.

Except for ‘the Greatest God’s interest’, he must have powerful



calibers.

He thought about Powell, who had been here before.

He compared Powell's growth rate to Vulcan's.

'If Act 2 is cleared within 150 years from now, Vulkan will achieve the shortest period ever... If he passes the period, Powell will still stay in the first place. Um'

It seemed possible enough to set a new record.

Inwardly, he cheered Vulkan on.

'Rather than Dragonians, it would be better for the Demi-gods to set a record. Um. But Lumitus said that he was a human, not a Demi-god... was that bastard mistaken,'

Honus raised his gaze slightly and recalled Vulkan who had been with him just before.

Obviously, he was not a human, but a Demi-god.

He deemed that Lumitus had had a stupid misunderstanding, then left quickly, frowning.

He was still planning to go to see Lumitus, who was a novice helper, because the period of punishment was not over.

So everyone left, quietness came to the fields that had been in turmoil until now.

Due to the aftermath of the duel, only the damaged landscapes were telling that many beings had come and gone.

So again, time went on without hesitation.

\*\*\*

"Yawwwn,"

Hokulrus's temple located in the center of the Espo City.

In one of the many rooms of the huge temple, Honus, who was taking a nap, woke up with a stretch.

He looked at a cat crying out loud at his bedside.

-Meow! Meooooow! Purrrrrrrrrrr...

“Okay. Stop it now. I’m up,”

Even Honus’s soothing voice couldn’t stop the black cat crying out.

He opened his pocket as if he could not help it, and threw the chicken breast.

“Here you go. Eat up.”

-Meow!

Honus laughed as he watched the cat dashing forward, purring and tearing the chicken breast.

Like that, watching his cat for a moment, he dressed in clothes, then walked leisurely in the direction of the portal inside the temple.

When his cat woke him up, it meant that he got something to do.

It looked likely that one of the beings in the Light inside the Darkness had come out.

‘Abandonment? Or did he make his own accomplishment and come out? Hm,’

He was not sure until he went to check it out.

Of course, he hoped for the latter.

As the manager of Act 2, he had seen so many of those beings who were obstructed by a huge wall and got depressed.

As a believer with respect for all beings, every time he saw them suffering, his heart hurt.

Of course, Honus was not so weak as to have a mental breakdown.

He was the one who had ruled over numerous beings and

witnessed numerous sufferings and unhappiness.

However...

‘Even so, that’s sad,’

He just did not get sad in front of Act 2’s residents.

Indulging in various thoughts, he bent his steps, and quickly reached for the portal.

The blue, mysterious dimensional gate connected to the place where he was managing.

Once he entered, he would know.

Whether the being who came out of the Light inside the darkness, gave up the midway or got a good achievement enough to take Hokulrus’s test.

He entered the portal with a nonchalant look.

Shuuuuuuc.

Scenery changed in an instant.

Honus went into the center of the fields where there were a few of tall trees growing here and there.

A smile bloomed on his face.

He could feel it without seeing.

As if he had no intention of exposing his power, he was able to suppress his forces as much as possible, but he could not fool his eyes.

It was clear.

The being, who came out now, was not an abandoner.

He moved his body with a smile that grew bigger than earlier.

‘It looks like It can be easy to take brother’s test. There should be something procedural to go through anyway... a new god could be born in a very long time. Who would that be...’

He recalled several candidates.

Would it be Parosil who had not come out since entered 700 years ago?

Or Pahalrum who got all the Dragonians' expectations and entered 420 years ago?

He approached the regressor at a rather slow pace to relish the thought.

However, since he walked much faster than the regressor's leisurely walking speed, after a little while, he couldn't help but to face him.

Honus finally saw the regressor.

But he had no choice but to look at the being in front of him with a look that was quite different from the earlier one.

“...”

A hard, firm face.

The smile on his lips vanished, shock replaced it.

The serious atmosphere made him unable to think that this was a moment of seeing a godly being born in 300 years. The being, who just returned the Light inside the Darkness, awkwardly said.

“Honus...? Did I do something wrong?”

“...”

“Honus?”

“Ah, no. Excuse me,”

Honus then turned around and stroked his beard with an embarrassed look.

He resolved his complicated array of emotions, then turned his back again.

He was embarrassed by the being that doubted his eyes, but he

did not look as unseemly as earlier.

His normal, solemn face returned.

However, he was not able to suppress his curiosity that filled his head.

Aside from praising his work, giving him warnings and guiding in the right direction, he threw a question.

“You... didn’t you enter here 15 years ago?”

“... Yes. Something wrong?”

The being, dressed in the armor with a dark red-colored aura exuding and the opposite Demi-god’s power shedding, Vulcan cautiously answered.

The exterior that had not changed at all, compared to the time when he first arrived here.

However, it was Vulcan who finally achieved comparable growth and was finally approved by God.

Beyond the Blue Dragon, the fielder, and the stage of Yur Dongbin, it was a sublime stage.

The time required to achieve it was only 15 years.

Honus swallowed saliva.

Looking at Vulcan without speaking for a moment, he said to Vulcan in a low voice with a blunt look.

“Congratulations... on your accomplishment.”

Honus couldn’t think of any other word.

# Chapter 113 - Test

---

Vulcan responded to Honus's words, lowering his head slightly.

"Thank you,"

He then looked at Honus vacantly.

But Honus, after tossing the words, 'congratulations', had no more words.

Although he was gazing toward Vulcan, he looked unfocused and possibly was having another thought in his head.

Vulcan did not rush him.

Perhaps he was very surprised.

Just after his enlightenment, Vulcan was even surprised himself, feeling as if it were not real, so in this case, from a third party's perspective, how surprising it would be.

He stood still as he was giving Honus time to fix his mind.

He then fell into his own thoughts.

'150 years... no, I thought it would take approximately 200 years,'

He had thought to himself when he first came in the Light inside the Darkness.

When he came up to Act 2, he had only one experience of what he might call enlightenment.

It was only when Fire Mastery had increased from s to ss rank just before he entered the Lava Demon Cave, the hidden quest in the Lava Field.

Other than that, he had grown steadily with stable level-ups, internal contemplation, and repeated learning through continuous battles.

'Ah, I did have a sharp spec-up before; I got greatly strengthened whenever I got the Blue Dragon's occult arts, strengthened the

item, gained a set of the Demon Duke, and succeeded in rebuilding the body,'

But he could not call it growth.

Moreover, now that he had reached the limit of being strong with the help of equipment or skills, Vulcan thought it was no longer possible to expect such luck.

Because of this, Vulcan thought that the only way to be strong was by hunting monsters and leveling up in the 'Final Trial'.

As if one had spent 100 years of time in the Origin of Evil to increase by 80 levels.

But it was not.

It was a change that came to Vulcan who had not anticipated it at all, and had accumulated experience and accomplishments by dealing with powerful monsters on par with last 14 years.

Enlightenment suddenly came to Vulcan, just as a high priest, who had lived for many decades with his recurring performance, reached Nirvana all of a sudden.

When the magic that he used as his willing tool felt awkward, and fire and lightning that he thought he knew everything about and the spell of the two attributes felt unfamiliar to him, Vulcan were able to get away from everything that had been taken for granted.

It was to prepare the basis for a whole new way.

Lightning and fireworks burst at the same time from the body of Vulcan who had fallen into a completely unconscious world.

Like a ruthless calamity god who burns and destroys everything.

Vulcan, transformed into a completely different dimensional being than before, completely shook the inside of the Light inside the Darkness.

There was no one who could oppose him.

There was no monster that would dare to grab his ankle.

The monsters in the Light inside the Darkness were so helpless that they could not stop his godhood that had already reached the higher stage, above level 1,000.

Even the would-be gods dodged him.

Because the attack of Vulcan was poured indiscriminately, the frightened would-be gods could not help but escape to a far-away hunting ground and see what happens next.

Like that, a long time passed.

During the time, although Vulcan did not eat or drink anything, and did not sleep, he laid the Light inside the Darkness in ashes.

He was able to come to his senses in a year and to fully gain enlightenment that came to him.

And the notification sound of SYSTEM being heard.

Tiiiiirng!

[Lightning mastery increased from ss to sss!]

[Fire mastery increased from ss to sss!]

Listening to the more playful sound of SYSTEM than before, Vulcan stared at his own getup.

And he looked at many of the would-be gods who, before he knew it, had gathered up and been watching him.

Their eyes were mixed with amazement, astonishment, jealousy and fear.

Seeing their attitude, Vulcan was able to bring himself up to speed on the situation.

Enlightenment came to him indeed in a long time.

‘Though I did not achieve level 1,000 that I was aiming for...’

It did not matter.



Vulcan checked his level using SYSTEM.

[Demi-god Vulcan]

[988 Lv]

The level was also much higher than he had expected, because he had slain monsters at a terrifying pace for a year in the unconscious world.

Maybe it was possible to break through level 1,000 if he could spend another 2-3 years in the Light inside the Darkness.

But Vulcan did not feel the need to do so.

Currently, his actual level that he had estimated, was 1,200-1,300.

He would not know how difficult Hokulrus's test is, but it seemed that passing the test was not a big deal to him.

Having thought this far, Vulcan lifted his head and looked at Honus again.

His mouth was firmly closed, his brow was furrowed, and his gaze filled with anguish was lowered.

Vulcan took a shallow sigh.

It seemed it could go on like this forever.

In a cautious voice, he called out,

“Well... Honus?”

“Uh? Ah, right. I'm sorry. I was thinking of something else...”

Honus still had a flat face, but could not hide his puzzled look and his clumsy gestures.

Vulcan tossed him a question.

"Actually, as soon as I got out of the Light inside the Darkness, I used the return scroll to go back to Espoo City, but it did not work. By any chance, did you stop the scroll from working?"

“Oh yeah, I did. Because there are a lot of guys who would just go

away without seeing me...”

“I see... so, what can I do to get to the Espo City? Should I get out of this field, in order to use the return scroll?”

Vulcan had splashing sparks on his body as if to run in a no time. Seeing him like that, Honus hurried to speak.

“N, No. Let me open the portal,”

Wuuuuuuuuuuung.

The circular dimensional door moved like waves.

Vulcan, who saw it, bowed toward Honus.

“Thank you. I’m going now,”

“... yeah,”

As Honus nodding with a stern look, Vulcan threw himself into the portal.

At the same time, the blue portal was gradually shrinking.

Honus, who was watching it, kept silent again.

But it was a bit different from before.

There was no Vulcan who had faced him anymore. He did not have to force himself to behave with grace.

He had a much more distorted look than before and wandered about like a child with anxiety.

It was because he was so shocked that he could not stand still.

With a trembling heart that was not calm yet, he thought, “That’s why... he gained the Greatest God’s interest?”

The growth was beyond imagination.

After facing the insane growth rate, he felt something that had remained as a question, was somehow convincing.

The first one who had cleared Act 2 in the shortest time was Powell from Dragonians. It was 385 years.

Given that 1,500 years were spent on average by those who cleared Act 2, this was a gigantic outcome defying common sense.

By the way, Vulcan advanced the time by 135 years.

250 years.

In just a short time, less than 300 years, he crossed the wall of Act 2, which had frustrated millions.

‘Oh, he didn’t cross it just yet, as there is a test for him to take...’

Having thought this far, Honus chuckled.

As long as he had already reached that level, it did not matter if he had to take the test.

If only he had a willingness to take the test, it would not be unreasonable to let him pass it straight away.

‘Well... since he was about to go to the Espo city, it seems like he is going to take the test right away without doing anything else.’

Honus, who was sorting his thoughts while spinning around his place, suddenly stood up.

A puzzled face like someone who missed out on something very important.

‘I should have informed him of 38 habits to be a good god...’

\*\*\*

Shuuuuuc.

Vulcan who arrived at the Espo City via the portal created by Honus.

His vision got a little wider than before.

Various people and buildings came into his view.

Now it looked more familiar than his home country, Korea.

But he felt a bit different from before.

Is it because of the idea of leaving here soon?

Vulcan could not help but see everything with a much more sentimental eye.

Step. Step.

Absentmindedly, he walked along the streets of Espo City.

At a slightly slower speed than usual.

Just as a greenhorn from Act 1 tries to adapt to Act 2, Vulcan turned his head here and there to take in the landscapes of Espo City.

Not that he can not come forever.

He has the Dimensional Cross Teleportation Technique, so he can come back whenever he wants.

‘But it could be hundreds of years from now...’

The cooling time for the Dimensional Cross Teleportation Technique.

And considering the time scales of Earth and Asgard, it takes five years to come here and then back to Earth.

Vulcan had no intention of being away from his family and new acquaintances for such a long time.

Eventually, he would not return to this place at least unless the lives of the acquaintances associated with him came to an end.

Like that, a building came into his eyes as he walked contemplating everything in the streets of Espo City.

A mysterious building with a entrance decorated with various shining crystals.

It was Oracle.

Vulcan, who saw it, crumpled his face slightly.

It was because he remembered what Oracle had done for him.

‘Maybe... he cast spells on and was spying on me...’

Something never dreamed of.

Vulcan is a mage who has been able to use a fairly high level of magic since he came to Act 2.

Of course, if someone uses magic, he is sharp enough to and has the ability to parry it.

It was the surveillance magic that, cunningly and tactfully, had deceived him.

Vulcan shook his head.

‘It would be impossible ... unless it was the magic cast by a mage who nearly reached the Blue Dragon rank.’

Why the one who has reached such rank is doing such a useless information play?

Vulcan could not make sense of it.

‘...’

Having stared at Oracle's building with a quick glance, he shortly turned his head away.

Then he headed to the center of Espo City at a little bit faster speed.

He decided to eradicate Oracle from his head.

Indeed, Oracle were such bastards.

After more than a hundred years, a little bit of emotion died down, but if he met the bastards outside of the city, he could very well break their necks at a breath.

But he did not intend to go on a rampage in the city.

What was important to Vulcan now was not that.

‘If I get entangled with those bastards, the delay will cause much more damage.’

If, under the same circumstances as Act 1, all the keepers are on

the side of Vulcan, he might consider it.

Vulcan, who walked along the streets while having such thoughts, suddenly stopped at one point.

A gigantic temple.

He stood in front of the temple whose size can not be compared with the one of Act 1's Baeron, and made a determined look.

He then unsheathed the Heavenly Lightning Blade and approached forward.

“Uh?”

“Who the hell,”

“Why the blade... in the City?... Does he mean to open the door of the test...?”

The people, who were startled by Vulcan's sudden action, began to talk in whispers.

Defeating the door of the test is the minimum condition for taking, the supreme manager of Act 2, Hokulus's test.

Because of this, sometimes people came and tested their strengths, and other people also came to watch them.

But Vulcan did not even give them the time to talk.

An achromatic, thick door made of unknown material.

Approaching closer to the door whose size was as big as a building, Vulcan wielded the blade as a flash.

Slice.

And the door was cut down.

‘...!’

He did at a speed at which anyone gathered here, and even those who were near level 900 could not recognize.

Baaaaaaang.

The door was cut in half and collapsed instantly.

And the people were not able to say anything with their mouths wide open.

At the center, Vulcan slowly caught the aura of the Thunder God Blade that was surrounding the Heavenly Lightning Blade.

Then he slowly walked toward the inside of the temple.

# Chapter 114 - Test (2)

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Ttoobuk. Ttoobuk.

The Demon Duke's boots hit the stone floor inside the temple, creating the footstep sound.

And those who gathered near the temple could not speak a word out of their mouth until the sound gradually faded and no sound was heard.

They couldn't help but do so.

The shock was big enough to paralyze them.

Only after a long while, one by one, they gathered their senses.

They talked to each other in an enormous state of excitement.

“What the hell just happened?”

“No way...”

“Oh my... when the Blue Dragon tried to defeat the door, it seemed more difficult than that...”

None of them could believe what had just happened.

That was natural.

In the first place, the door of the test was not made to be cracked at one time.

A man who recently became a god, had tried three times.

Before that, four times.

Aside from them, many of those who cleared Act 2 and became godly beings had attempted an average of 3-4 attacks to open the door.

About 150 years ago, there was an anecdote that, after breaking the door at the end of eight attempts, the Blue Dragon and Blue Wind returned to the western islands, realizing its shortcomings.



Such door was cut with a blade at once.

Those who passed in front of the temple quickly delivered this astonishing news to their acquaintances, and a lot of people gathered in front of the door which was cut in half.

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By then, Vulcan completely entered the temple.

Because of the much more complicated structure than Act 1's temple, he was worried about where to go.

But that was an unnecessary worry.

Hearing a heavy voice from behind his back, Vulcan turned his head in surprise.

“Impressive. Vulcan,”

“...Hokulrus? You know my name,”

“Yeah. Honus told me,”

“I see,”

“By the way, how is it that you can recognize me when you have never met me before? Is it also a Player's ability?”

“Yes, it is,”

‘Even gods do not seem to know perfectly about Players,’

Having thought this far, Vulcan looked at the abilities that rose above Hokulrus's head.

Question marks that would stimulate Vulcan's curiosity were no longer visible.

[the Act 2's Supreme Manager, the god of water, Hokulrus]

[1735Lv]

[Physical Level: 1225]

[Godly skill Level: 510]

‘Much higher than Honus’s. And Hokulrus also has a godly skill level,’

Vulcan was astonished at the gigantic level of Hokulrus, the Act 2’s supreme manager, and felt interested in the ability that seemed different from the others’ he had met.

Unlike the others he had seen so far, it was quite strange that the level was divided into two areas.

However, since he was unable to explain his question to Hokulrus, who did not seem to be aware of Players properly, Vulcan went straight to the point.

“I would like to take the test to clear Act 2, Hokulrus,”

“Hmmm...”

Hokulrus, who listened to Vulcan, looked at him with an expressionless look.

His sharp eyes looked as if they were peeping into his mind.

The two pupils, like blue glittering glass beads, were appalling.

Vulcan, completely overwhelmed by the momentum, gripped his fist tightly to overcome himself.

He thought.

‘It’s like... although I’ve got stronger, I’m still no match for the top gods,’

He might well think so. Hokulrus was indeed the most powerful god among a lot of the Act 2’s managers.

No matter how strong he was, it did not matter much.

Not that he was trying to go up to Act 3 in order to tussle with gods.

It was just a matter of restoring the world with a wish that cleared Act 2.

Having thought so, he thought that he would not have to feel as

daunted as now.

He forced himself to adjust his shrunk-up posture into a more upright one.

He braced his shoulders, and raised his chin arrogantly.

Hokulrus's eyes that saw him, were filled with interest.

He was surprised to see Vulcan holding his pressure much better than expected.

He nodded slightly and stopped pushing Vulcan.

“Huupppp,”

The aura of Hokulrus disappeared in an instant.

Vulcan, who let out a small sound in bewilderment, stared at Hokulrus.

Just like earlier, the atmosphere was so imperative that it was hard for him to approach.

But it was not enough to make him feel frightened and go weak at the knees.

‘I don't get to see him often anyway, hold the head up,’

Vulcan looked as if he faced the Army Chief of Staff after being discharged from the service.

He slowly opened his mouth.

“By any chance, was it the test a moment ago?”

“No,”

“Well then, let me take the test now,”

“Are you in a hurry?”

“No, but I just want to clear Act 2 right away,”

“Hmm,”

Again, Hokulrus stopped talking.

Still with his gaze in the direction of Vulcan.

He looked like Honus, who had been standing so long a little while ago.

Vulcan rushed him.

“Can’t you possibly do this faster?”

He said as if he were a creditor who came to look for the money that he had entrusted.

Hokulrus, who did not like that, slightly frowned.

“Watch your tone, you are talking to the supreme manager,”

“I’m sorry. I think I’m running out of patience as I’ve been aiming toward this for a long time,”

“Oh well, all right then,”

Hokulrus wanted to observe Vulcan a bit more, but as Vulcan wanted to take the test so eagerly, he couldn’t help it.

He unfolded a cloth around his body, then said to Vulcan.

“Follow me,”

Vulcan was a little stunned, seeing Hokulrus’s sudden action and moved both legs quickly.

‘He doesn’t talk as much as Honus - I like it,’

Vulcan thought, following behind Hokulrus.

So they headed out across the inside of the temple.

Not in the direction of the main gate, but in the one of the door that Vulcan cut in half.

Vulcan took a look at the results that he made absentmindedly, and saw the Act 2’s masters that had gathered around the door and hardened his look.

As if seeing a celebrity, as soon as the masters saw Vulcan, they suddenly started making a commotion.

Vulcan felt many more eyes on him than Hokulrus who was not often seen.

He felt pressured by the various races that were more enthusiastic than when he had unpacked the items in the auction house long ago.

Vulcan didn't have the knack of getting on with many people and lacked immunity to excessive attention.

He wanted to avoid the place, and approached Hokulrus who was standing among the crowd.

Because he wanted to tell Hokulrus to leave the place quickly.

But before Vulcan began to speak, Hokulrus opened his firm mouth first.

"Today, a man, who had cleared Act 2 in a long time was born. I, the supreme manager of Act 2, let him finish the test, and he proved power enough to call himself a god.

It's Vulcan! He is a Demi-god with such powerful power that can not be found in history. No, He is soon going to become a god,"

"..."

With a dumbfounded look, Vulcan stared at Hokulrus who continued talking without hesitation.

"Just three days from now, at 1pm on the Espo City Square, Vulcan, who cleared Act 2, will be given the title of God. Those who are interested should not hesitate to come and see the Demi-god Vulcan who will become a great being. Period,"

At the end of Hokulrus' s words, a great disturbance took place among the crowd.

The birth of a new god in 300 years.

Everybody in Act 2 was stirred by the news.

Although the level of each person was different, all wanted to

reach a higher level.

Their top goal was to raise power enough to clear Act 2 and reach the godhood.

Like that, in front of their eyes, a man, who was equal to them until yesterday, will become a godly being - how can they not be excited.

The people who were gathered in front of the temple were scattered in order to spread the astonishing news to their acquaintances, and a few people stared at Vulcan without hiding their excitement.

And Vulcan, who was receiving the gaze, was standing with a blank expression, not knowing what was going on.

‘... What the hell, wasn’t I supposed to take the test?’

He was flustered at the sudden explication, turned his eyes and found Hokulrus, who was about to go inside the temple.

Vulcan hurriedly caught up with him and asked.

“Hokulrus?”

“Yeah,”

“Um, I thought I was about to take the test. What is it going...”

Vulcan slurred his words.

He did not say the right words as he let words come out of his mouth without properly organizing his thoughts in his head.

He swallowed his saliva and calmed his confused emotions, then spoke again.

“So, I mean... I thought I was going to take the test to clear Act 2, but I was embarrassed because it was not. Also, an event or celebration for me? What was that? I am grateful for that, but I do not want it. Just want to take the test, make a wish and leave here,”

His words were still not clear, but enough to get his point across.

Having heard that, Hokulrus stopped the new model.

He then responded in a calm, orderly manner.

“Appointment ceremonies are necessary,”

“Why is that?”

“Of course, whenever there is a man who ascends to the godhood, a grand ceremony is necessary so that the rest of Act 2’s residents can be motivated and stimulated. You are going to play a part in leading more people to the godhood, which is required for the process,”

“... What am I supposed to do there?”

“After a ceremony to show off, you only need to boast power. No big deal,”

“... Yes,”

Although Vulcan did not like to be a crown in front of many people, he could not say anything as he was told it was required for the process.

There was a silence that meant a positive consideration.

But his slightly crumpled face showed a kind of irritation.

Hokulrus said.

“Once you become a god, you will need to get used to it, looking after humans. It will be a good learning experience,”

It was like advice from a senior god.

But that was uninspiring for Vulcan.

Vulcan shook his head and looked at Hokulrus with his eyes rounded, then said.

“I have no intention of being a god... I just want to clear Act 2 and make a wish, then return to my world,”

“Hm?”

Having heard that, Hokulrus wore a look filled with questions.

Then, he snapped at Vulcan.

“What the hell did you just say? Going under your parents again?”

“Sorry? What do you mean, going under my parents?”

“Didn’t you say you would return to your world?”

“Yes,”

“Your parent must be gods. Does it make sense to you that a god goes under gods? You need to stand your own feet,”

“Uh?”

“Hm?”

With a look full of question marks, they both looked at each other.

While they seemed not to understand each other’s words, there was a long silence.

“...”

“...”

A very awkward silence.

In which, Hokulrus looked Vulcan as if seeing a strange creature for the first time in his life.

He thought.

‘Well, neither Dragonians nor any other races, that Demi-god cleared Act 2, but is not going to serve as a god? What the hell is that bastard doing?’

It did not make sense at all.

Of course, there were many of Demi-gods that lived like a spoiled brat and stirred up their parents’ world.



Believing in a much more superior body than human beings, those bastards exercised power and made so much trouble.

They were so pathetic that they did not even think to grind away in Asgard.

But Vulcan was different from them.

He came to Asgard with his own will, and grinded away harder than anyone and raised his level.

He achieved enough to astonish Hokulrus, the Act 2's supreme manager, and also was a promising Demi-got who was staring, the shortest period of time, Act 2's clear in the face.

“Why the hell is he saying such thing?”

It did not make sense to Hokulrus, further, he was angry.

He suppressed his anger and looked at Vulcan who was staring at him without a word, then said.

“Are you sure that you have no intention of serving as a god, are you really saying that?”

“Yes, that's right...”

With an uncomprehending look, Vulcan answered.

# Chapter 115 - Test (3)

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Having heard that far, Hokulrus could not take it anymore.

He suddenly released his anger he had held back.

“Hey! With god’s blood, you now cleared Act 2 and earned recognition for your ability, but are reluctant to do what you should do? What’s wrong with you? Did you come up here only to satisfy your interests and desires, like humans and other races?”

“Why are you getting angry? Please calm down...”

Vulcan was greatly embarrassed.

It was because he could not grasp the point where Hokulrus was angry.

He reconsidered whether there was anything wrong with what he had said while he was being overwhelmed by Hokulrus's force like an active volcano.

However, no matter how hard he thought, it didn’t seem like he made a tongue slip.

‘Well, what then am I supposed to make a wish for, when protecting my family and world is equal to satisfying my interests and desires? I thought I could make a wish for anything as long as it doesn’t harm anyone,’

He thought it was not fair.

His anger was far more intense than Vulcan’s feelings, and the rage didn’t stop there.

“Calm down? Are you out of your mind? Are you going to keep trying to avoid your fault? Oh, well. I will need to speak with your parents who have taught you this way. Say your parents’ names,”

Suddenly, it became a situation where Vulcan’s parents were brought up.

Vulcan's embarrassment and resentment all turned into anger.

Like Hokulrus, Vulcan was also angry and remonstrated, forgetting it was the supreme manager of Act 2 who had power enough to determine his own future.

"What the hell are you talking about? What's wrong with our parents? Why would you bring up them?"

"Shut up! No more arguing. Say your parents' names, no, the god's name, which one of them is the god? Father? Mother?"

"Ha,"

Vulcan was dumbfounded.

He turned back and took a deep breath to calm down.

If he remained in a calm state, he might have realized that there was something odd about Hokulrus' s words, but he was about to lose his temper.

It was a good thing that he didn't attack Hokulrus.

Vulcan closed his eyes and gnashed his teeth, then thought.

'I don't know what the hell, but oh, well...'

Vulcan turned back again and had a sharp look in his eyes.

He recited his parents' names.

"Father's is Kim Jung-hoon, mother's Lee Hye-won. Happy now?"

"Okay,"

Hokulrus frowned and knocked his head with his finger as he looked through various drawers in his head.

Vulcan was still angry and looked at Hokurus as if he were an enemy, like that, time flowed without hesitation.

After about 1 minute, Hokulrus muttered to himself with a rather embarrassed face.

“What the... no such gods...” said in a small voice.

But it was loud enough to reach Vulcan’s ears.

Vulcan, who heard Hokulrus’s words, responded with a fierce look.

“What are you talking about? Our parents are humans,”

“Hm?”

“They are humans,”

“What?”

It seemed like Hokulrus didn’t understand Vulcan’s words, as he repeated asking.

Given his reaction, Vulcan also realized that something strange was going on.

He soothed his anger that had been intensified to the point of explosion, then looked Hokulrus straight in the eye.

“Let’s calm down and talk this out,”

\*\*\*

“Hm, sorry,”

Hokulrus looked at Vulcan with a sorry look.

It was rare for Hokulrus to show such anger, but Vulcan did not say anything because, after all, it was his fault in the first place.

Vulcan accepted his apology completely.

Since all of this came from misunderstandings and he was not so narrow-minded as to be unable to understand it.

“It’s okay. It was quite understandable,”

“Yeah. Unless you manage the Beloong city, there is no chance of learning about Players. I am also not interested... Well, how come a human can be a demi-god? That’s weird. Perhaps the greatest god may know,”

Hokulrus found himself still not understanding and talking to himself, and fell into his own thoughts.

Having seen that, Vulcan let out an inward sigh of relief.

‘Phew, he did not become angry with me for not wanting to serve as a god, thank god,’

He was worried that he would be sent to Act 3 or be given a heavy responsibility, just like Act 1’s 6th zone.

However, after revealing that he was originally a human, Hokulrus did not speak to him about it and seemed to have no intention to force him.

He thought of his rosy future in his own way.

It was to live happily and happily with the family that he loves without battle and slaughter.

There was no specific plan, but it was something that could be done slowly.

Vulcan stood silently with his eyes out of focus and a smile on his face.

Hokulrus awoke from his thoughts and stared at Vulcan.

He honestly wanted to ask about Players, judging from the earlier conversation, it seemed to him that Vulcan did not know how he got the ability or how the ability emerged in some way.

‘Well, gods are also inexplicable beings,’

He forcibly shook off that and called out,

“Vulcan,”

“Yes,”

“Now, let’s talk about the test,”

“Oh, yes. Have I already passed the test?”

With hopes and tensions in his eyes, Vulcan looked at Hokulrus.

Hokulrus then shook his head.

He continued to speak, as Vulcan put a disappointed look on his face.

“There is nothing to worry about. At any rate, your level is at the top among all those who have cleared Act 2. You will pass through any test. So I told the crowd that there would be an appointment ceremony beforehand,”

“Thank you,”

He seemed to have considered the situation of Vulcan who continued to act hastily.

Vulcan thanked Hokulrus and immediately asked a question.

“So... What is the test? In Act 1, I caught a monster called Sarantis, is it similar?”

Vulcan thought it was going to be a test to defeat something, of course, because there was no other way to test the ability intuitively.

But Hokulrus shook his head and spat out unexpected words.

“Beat a human,”

“Sorry? human?”

“Yeah,”

With an unpleasant frown, Hokulrus continued.

“Beat a human almost to death, till I say, enough, then I will let you pass the test,”

\*\*\*

At a large and well-arranged office,

Madorgi, who had been working as usual, suddenly sighed big.

As usual, he did not clearly reveal his feelings, but the lowered corners of his mouth represented his feelings.

He turned his fountain pen in his hand and looked at the piled-up documents and suddenly got up.

Then, the documents that were floating in the air by his magic power were arranged on the desk.

He slowly circled the room and sighed again.

He said in a small voice.

“I can’t believe he’s become a god,”

Vulcan.

Just 250 years ago, he was a greenhorn who had just came up to Act 2.

In addition, he was a human being and a player who was pointed out as the most talented.

When such underdog broke down the difficulties one by one and knocked out Bae Su Jin which was the strongest force among humans, Madorgi was very enjoyable until then.

This was because the emergence of a mutant called Vulcan came as a fresh stimulus.

His life was repeated as if he was always in a loop.

Watching Vulcan that had caused disturbances was the most enjoyable hobby for him and he was able to get away from boring routines.

However,

“... That is only to some extent,”

Madorgi threw away his expressionless look in a long time and put an unpleasant look on his face.

Unbearable inferiority, shame, frustration.

All kinds of depraved emotions got through him and he could not bear it.

He was more interested in watching the conflicts and conflicts of others than his accomplishments, but he did not completely abandon his desire to become stronger.

Until he started to run the information organization called Oracle in earnest, Madorgi had lived his life as a good citizen who was enthusiastic about training in Act 2.

However, he was frustrated because he could not break the wall for a long time, and he set up an intelligence group again in the summer to return to the life of maneuvering and abusing people.

Having spent so many hundreds of years, Madorgi had a satisfying day.

Having failed to make it to the last footsteps of becoming a god had weighed on him, but after a hundred years and two hundred years, the dirty feelings gradually became diluted.

Rather, except for that, it was a better life.

The pleasure of manipulating the absolute strongest people, who are much greater than those in the summer, based on their own information was so great that he could not say enough, and he was more enthusiastic about devising plots while gradually putting back on training.

That way, Madorgi abandoned his desire to clear ACT 2 and gradually moved into his own joy.

But now that he found out that Vulcan, who he thought was such underdog, reached the position of god, the wounds that have fallen asleep in his mind began to cause pain again and caused him to lose his composure.

“Arrggggghhhh!”

Suddenly, he screamed into the air.

Now, under the completely collapsed poker face, the hideous facial expressions were fully revealed.



He fumed, but it did not help change anything.

Vulcan was no longer in his reach, and Madorgi's rank had been stopped for over five hundred years and was no longer moving forward.

Like many other beings who had overtaken him, he knew that he was forced to send Vulcan to the godhood.

He slowly calmed his rough breathing, then thought to himself.

‘Don’t give it a damn. He was the one who was going to reach the godhood anyway. Demi-god... scam combination with Player's abilities. It is not a flaw that I am a human being and have fallen behind him,’

Madorgi would have been more angry if he knew Vulcan was a human, but since he knew Vulcan was a demi-god, he could somewhat control his anger.

Unless Vulcan was a human, Madorgi still thought he was the strongest of the humans.

He thought that he was great enough.

After completing his rationalization, he laughed and muttered with a better feeling.

“I can find another toy, after all,”

“What toy?”

“Uh!”

Madorgi was horrified by the heavy voice he heard from behind him.

And he tried to turn the new type instinctively to check the source of the sound.

But before turning his head, he felt a hand gripping his back neck roughly.

And a little dizzy feeling.

Woooooong.

Madorgi, who had a feeling similar to when he was using a space-moving circle, looked around with a puzzled look on his face.

All over the green forest.

He was in what seemed very far away from Espo city, and there was nobody passing by.

It was a slightly higher tone than the sound I had heard earlier.

And a familiar voice somehow.

“Should I beat that man?”

He unconsciously turned his head in the direction.

And he was flabbergasted.

A man was holding a sword, in a golden red sparkling red armor.

“Vulcan...”

Madorgi looked at him as if his soul fled his body.

# Chapter 116 - Test (4)

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But Vulcan didn't set his gaze toward him.

He was gazing at Hokulrus's face.

Hokulrus then nodded his head at him.

"Yeah. That's the person. Be careful though,"

Although he said so, he wasn't worried at all.

That was a sure thing.

Because there was no being in Act 2 that could threaten Vulcan, if any, it was the gods that were managing Act 2.

But there was no reason for them to be hostile to Vulcan.

He also didn't show any reaction as he already knew it.

With a sour look, he gazed at the person in a brown robe in front of his eyes.

Moderate height. Moderate physique.

Neither handsome nor ugly, ordinary-looking.

Face full of fear.

'Very leery,'

Person that Vulcan doesn't know.

Unless Vulcan was a psychopath, he was not likely to like to beat a person that he didn't know.

So when he was told, he suggested replacing it with another test.

And he told Hokulrus to do it himself.

Hokulrus then responded.

'Including me, managers cannot intervene in Act 2's residents' problems. Depending on the seriousness, we could take care of them, but this guy is... ambiguous,'

Vulcan felt more leery when he heard it, but he had no choice as there was no way of replacing it with another test.

Vulcan said to himself, letting out a sigh.

“I’m a damn contract killer now...”

In a voice loud enough to be heard.

Hokulrus didn’t care at all.

He was gazing the man in a brown robe with eyes of stone and no word.

‘What a damn poor man,’

He couldn’t help but do.

Vulcan sorted out his thoughts and pulled up the thunder god’s might.

The blade put back in.

He thought that if he would attack with the blade, it would not end with beating.

After coaxing lighting and thunder, and demi-god’s power into both of hi hands, he scanned the man.

He was going to adjust the power according the level, but as he checked the man’s level, a look of surprise passed over his face.

[Human Mage Madorgi]

[982Lv]

‘982? Human?’

Very high level.

It was the highest level, except the blue dragon and gods, among the ones he had met so far.

Vulcan stared at him.

Not only the level was high, but also he was a human.

Since he had so far heard from many people that 'Rex Lubro is the strongest man', it was indeed interesting.

‘What the... Rex Lubro doesn’t hold a candle to him. How come this person has not been known until now?’

Vulcan was poised for a battle and kept gazing at the man in front of him, meanwhile, Madorgi pulled the power to the maximum, sweating.

He knew that he was not to be compared with Vulcan.

He felt a tremendous amount of power in the magic that was bloomed in Vulcan’s hands despite his calm expression, though he did not show any power.

However, he could not stand like a scarecrow without any resistance.

In comparison to Vulcan who became a divine being, he was weak, but in Act 2, he was also one of the 5 strongest men.

‘I won’t just let him lash out at me,’

His tongue swept inside his mouth that had dried up because of the tension and summoned a 1 meter-diameter ball from his right hand.

Mysterious sphere that was red, blue, and sometimes shining in purple.

It was Oculus, a patent that could inflict a mental attack on nearby enemies.

Top-level spiritual magic that could make those with low levels collapse, even when they attempted to approach, and make divine beings or demi-gods, dragonians unable to focus on battles.

Looking up at Oculus floating in the sky, Madorgi prepared for another magic.

‘Not enough... I need to prepare for the other magics...’

But when he thought that far.

Suddenly, Vulcan who poured a fierce forth like an evil spirit approached him at terrific speed and grabbed him by the collar.

Vulcan, who showed a quick move as if he had not been influenced by Oculus, flung Madorgi down on the floor.

Kwaaaaang!

“Ugh!... ugggghhhh!”

Madorgi, who had lost concentration in a moment, failed to cast the next spell, and looked up at Vulcan with a dark look.

Vulcan looked down at him like a devil in hell.

Madori's look became darker because of the words that came out of his mouth.

“Similar to the magic that was hanging on me...”

“...!”

With an instantly, decade old look, Madorgi tried to open his mouth to say something.

But It was quicker for Vulcan to punch down than for Madorgi to speak.

Kwang!

His teeth that popped out like popcorn by his swinging fist.

It was a cruel sight that was hard to see, but the Vulcan did not care about it. He said again.

“Damn bastard... you are Oracle!”

Hokulrus, who had been watching quietly, spoke softly.

“Don't kill him though,”

Madorgi's expression saddened like a cattle dragged to the slaughterhouse.

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Vulcan didn't stop at all.

He beat, beat, and kept beating.

He didn't worry about him dying.

Vulcan showed an elaborate control and beat Madorigi just before dying, then gazed at Hokulrus.

Hokulrus then used god power and potions to heal Madorgi completely.

And the beating began again.

The level of Madorgi was too low to prevent Vulcan's beating that fired in anger.

From Madorgi's end, it was not fair.

He was also known for a frightfully strong man among Act 2's ordinary people.

He was never weak enough to be dragged into a secluded forest and beaten like a dog.

But it was his misfortune that Vulcan, who had already had the same power as god, was his opponent.

He thought to himself in the endless pain.

"Son... of bi... tch..."

Other than that, there was no word to come to mind.

He just wanted this hellish time to end soon.

Like that, 48 hours later, Vulcan's anger somewhat subsided and his hand slightly slowed down.

Hokulrus, who had been standing silently like a NPC at a medical center, held his hand and restrained Vulcan.

Vulcan, with a satisfying revenge of his own, stepped back with a languid expression and Hokulrus approached Madorigi with a stern look and his hands clasped behind his back.

Madorgi asked, looking at Hokulrus, who was treating him carefully.

“W... hy...”

“You don’t know why?”

“ ... ”

Hokulrus asked back, but Madorgi didn’t answer.

No, he couldn’t.

The wound of his body was cleanly cured, but his spiritual damage remained.

He was not in a position to actively think and answer.

Hokulrus hit his tongue and said to Madorgi.

“Stop fooling around with people,”

“... th.. that...”

It was the reaction of someone who had something wrong.

Hokurus, who saw it, said successively.

“Do you know how chaotic Asgard has become because of Oracle you were playing with? Do you know how many people died... Ah... why were you fooling around with people?”

“I... did wrong, but I didn’t think I did something worthy of... punishment... “

“I couldn’t just keep watching Asgard falling apart,”

Hokulrus forced Madorgi to stand up, then put his face closer and said.

“This is just a warning. Do you know that the Blue Dragon Blue Wind is coming to take the test soon?”

Hokulrus's eyes shone like the tip of a sharp sword.

Madorgi could not say anything, while Hokulrus continued to speak.



“Including Paros, Pahalrum, even those that you don’t know, gods will now pour out and I will torture you, by way of a test. Of course, the severity will increase more and more,”

“...”

“Well, If, you follow my proposal, that won’t happen. What do you say?”

Madorgi’s body and mind were thoroughly injured and had no power left to resist.

He asked Hokulrus in a trembling voice.

“What... is that?”

“It is no bother,”

Hokulrus, who was grabbing Madorgi, got the grim off his hands and said.

“There is a man named Filder in Act 1’s Beloong city. Take on a manager for the man. If you perform the role for ten thousand years, I will give you a clue to reach the godhood,”

Madorgi shouldn’t reject it.

He couldn’t help but nod.

Hokulrus tapped Madorgi's shoulder and stared back at Vulcan.

He then said with a slight smile.

“Vulcan, you have passed the test,”

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Finally, the day of the ceremony came.

Although there were always many people in the Espo city, but today much more people visited and filled the city.

Hokulrus and Vulcan were tied to the test, while the rest of Act 2's managers were promoting the appointment ceremony.

Indeed, in the news of a god being born in a long time, many of

those who were trying to break the wall stopped training and chose to return.

A few days ago, Vulcan had been heading for a goal in an equal position with them.

There was no one who wanted to miss a moment of seeing such being.

Among the crowd, wolfnian Kiba opened his mouth.

“Ha, you don’t believe it? He was definitely weaker than me 250 years ago!”

“Shut the crap up. Aren’t you a dognian? Stop talking a dog shit!”

“Hehe, let’s throw a ball and see if he runs and catches it,”

Kiba pulled out his nails and showed the giggling pals.

Those who had lower levels stopped making fun of him, but didn’t stop talking.

Among them, a catnian said.

“Well, it doesn’t make sense. How could he become a god in 250 year? If so, there should have been rumors about it, don’t you think so?”

“It is because your hearing is poor. He is already famous! He is the one who destroyed the Bae Su Jin and who brought enormous quantities of items to the auction house, weren’t you there too?”

“O, yeah? Well, I was only interested in goods. And I don’t know anything about the Bae Su Jin,”

She then laughed.

Kiba turned his head, letting out a sigh.

The more he tried to explain, the more eggs he had on his face.

He thought, hitting his chest.

“Where the hell has he been? Only a few humans know about the

Bae Su Jin. What the hell is this guy?”

Kiba let out a sigh again.

He gulped down his beer, looking at his pals who wouldn't believe his word.

There was a man staring at him from a distance.

Ancient Darkelf Elkeni.

He had good hearing and was listening to what Kiba said, and he nodded as if he had agreed.

‘Unless they know him, it is not easy to believe,’

He wanted to approach and comfort him, but turned his head.

Demi-god Tulkas, who had been his teacher since 250 years, came into the picture.

He woke up Tulkas who was sleeping in a standing position.

“We'll start soon,”

“O, yeah?”

He wiped his mouth and stretched, then looked at the sky.

Hokulrus and Hornus surrounded by holy white lights.

And today's main character, Vulcan.

They were flying in slowly.

# Chapter 117 - Return

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They finally stopped at the center of the Espo city's square and floated up even higher.

I was to show their appearance to those who couldn't go into the square as the space was narrow.

Like that, the ceremony was ready to begin, Hornus, who exchanged glances with Hokulrus, cleared his throat, stroking his beard.

“Hm, hmmm,”

When the noise died down and the space became quiet, Hornus pulled out a thick document and started the ceremony.

“Now, we will celebrate the appointment ceremony for Vulcan, a glorious being who graduated from Act 2 in Asgard. First of all...”

Perpetual sentences flowed out of his mouth.

Like the thick rain that pours in the rainy season, the words of Hornus lasted for a long while.

Those who knew him were okay because they had anticipated, but many people, who did not have immunity to his boring speech, inwardly complained.

They dared not express out loud.

He was a god.

They waited patiently until Hornus's speech was finished, and the ceremony was carried out smoothly.

But the atmosphere was becoming less interesting.

Hokulrus stared at Hornus with big and bright eyes.

Hornus got startled.

‘I spoke only one third...’

He skipped a lot of things, meanwhile, many let out a sigh of relief.

So, much of the procedure went on in a flash, and the climax of the ceremony finally came.

Vulcan approached Hokulrus as if walking on an invisible, transparent floor.

He went down on one knee.

Hokulrus, who was watching Vulcan, reached out his hand, then said solemnly.

“Act 2 of Asgard. I grant, valiant being, Vulcan, who defeated challenges and passed through the final test, God’s authority. He can go up to Act 3 and manage the earth anytime.”

Unlike, it was simple and clear.

The crowd shouted and applauded.

Hokulrus, who received much acclaim, emitted a ray of light from his hand.

The holy light enveloped his body warmly.

Vulcan, who wholly absorbed the light, hear the sound of System.

[Main Quest - Being recognized by Act 2’s supreme manager, Hokulrus, completed!]

[You got additional rewards for the shortest period clear!]

[Use System to check the additional rewards.]

[Main Reward - Make wishes.]

‘Finally...’

It was finally over.

In fact, since when he came out of the Light inside the Darkness, Clear was almost certain, though being officially recognized felt

strange.

A lot of people gathered to see him and gave him various eyes.

Two powerful gods were looking at him proudly in front of his eyes.

It started to sink in when System notified him that he completed the Main Quest.

‘I... saved my family, and the world,’

He felt somewhat dumbfounded.

The feeling gradually transformed into joy, and he got choked up.

Blurred vision represented his emotional state.

He barely managed to hold back his tears.

He didn’t want to cry in front of a lot of people, and there was a more important reason.

‘No tears until I meet my family...’

Vulcan looked down and bowed the numerous crowds gathered to see him.

If there was no further procedure, he thought that he would go back to the temple, make wishes and check his rewards leisurely.

‘Hokulrus would probably let me go...’

Vulcan didn’t even make eye contact with Hornus.

Hokulrus’s soft voice rang inside his head.

-going now?

-isn’t it over? Now I need to get ready to leave.

-well, why don’t you show something to those who are gathered here for you before you leave?

Vulcan responded, laughing.

-like what? Should I pull out the Thunder God blade?

-something more dynamic than that.

Hokulrus, who finished speaking, pointed to the air.

Then, a black square door appeared and five demons jumped out of it.

Those screeched with joy as if escaping from prison.

Vulcan knew that those were the top-ranked demons that could be seen in the Origin of Evil.

“Catch them?”

“Yeah,”

Vulcan nodded and ran his eyes over the crowd staring at the demons.

Most of them had levels that were too low to reach the Origin of Evil.

They looked horrified.

Vulcan grinned, seeing the horrified looks on their faces.

Phaaaannnnngggg.

With the sound of the air bursting, the thunder and lightning and the flame rose simultaneously from the body of Vulcan.

Five demons that turned their head to a powerful aura that suddenly burst out.

Vulcan emanated powerful magic.

Like the firecrackers celebrating the Act 2 Clear, demons burst out.

The ceremony that would linger long in many's memory, was finished.

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“Impressive,”

“Yeah, indeed,”

“Someday, we can do it. Let’s go back now,”

“Can we?...”

Numerous people were coming out of the Espo city.

Vulcan’s godhood lingered in their mind and everyone got excited.

Some of them got demotivated, meanwhile, most people returned with enthusiasm just as Hokulrus intended.

Humans, animalians, dragonians, demi-gods, and others felt the inch to resume grinding away.

And a different being among them.

In a black robe, ancient predator, Poir had different thoughts.

‘Hm... that guy, cleared Act 2...’

Poir had mixed feeling, staring in the direction of the Espo city.

While he was relieved to see the strong man leave who been aiming at his life, he had a dark look on his face, watching the Player’s ability go.

In fact, before he came to the Espo city, the former feeling was much bigger.

However, no matter how much he wanted the Player’s ability, it wasn’t worthy of his life.

He couldn’t be more glad that the being, who had made him hide himself for more than 100 years, was leaving.

But Poir was a predator.

He was born greedy and had a strong tendency to not let go of the things in his hand.

Once his situation had flowed into securing his own safety, greed grew over his head again and he was angry that he could not get



Vulcan.

“Damn it! That was mine! mine! Argh...!”

Kwaaannnggg!

As soon as he found out that there were no people around, he wreaked his wrath upon a tree.

Repeating the same words, he suddenly grabbed his chest.

Then, he coughed blood on the floor.

Tudududukkk.

Poir, who had seen the blood drops scattered on the floor, tried again to smash the trees around him, but couldn't, because of the chest pain.

In the end, suppressing his anger rising inside him, he couldn't help but sit down and grab his chest.

A voice like the cry of a wounded beast came out.

“The holy sword... damn holy sword... “

He had been hiding for the last 100 years and using all sorts of means, but the wound he had worn at that time were not cured.

Rather, like cancer cells, it was eating his body and collapsing his body.

As he ate the Demon Duke's boots in excess, he became more vulnerable by the aura that the holy sword was exuding.

He tried to improve his body by making various potions, but it was not easy.

In the end, all he could do was to curse Vulcan by saying such profanity.

He once again looked at the Espo city with his bloody eyes.

“...”

Of course, it wouldn't change the situation.

Tolerating the pain, he stood up and thought.

‘But... now that I don’t have to hide, I’ll be able to use a little more upscale materials. I can make enough medicine. I need to survive first...’

Poir started to calm himself down slowly and think rationally.

When he felt the pain, he could get a hold of himself.

This meant, if he could get out of the pain, his mental state could become strange again.

There was no time to gawk in order to solve the problem perfectly.

He made a sound with his shark-like teeth and moved his feet.

Then.

Kiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii.

Kyaarararararararararara.

A bizarre sound came from far away.

At first, it was faint, but Poir’s face became hardened, hearing the gradually increasing sound.

He took off the robe and was poised for battle.

His eyes were full of questions.

Because it was an ordinary forest, not a hunting ground, the noise didn’t make sense.

“What the fuck... ?”

Creepy, gross monsters came into sight.

Poir glared at them with dilated eyes.

‘Those bastards.... Chimera!’

He had spent many years in the Espo city, and he had never met, but he knew the rumors.

He knew that there was a madman who could do biome studies and create bizarre creatures after kidnapping powerful individuals.

And that the madman had chimeras with tremendous power.

Having thought this far, Poir felt in his bones.

This time, he was a target.

He peeked a smile.

“Kk...”

The small sound gradually grew bigger and suddenly spread throughout the surroundings.

Some of chimeras reeled under the impact of the sound magic.

But more than 50 chimeras were still staring at Poir and among them, a giant one was mocking.

Poir, who saw it, stopped laughing.

Showing His sharp, bright teeth, he said.

“How dare you?”

Tuuuunnnnggg.

As soon as his ward was finished, he rushed to the giant chimera at a terrific pace.

In front of him was a solid barrier that drove Vulcan into the corner, and the chimera flew away without even reacting properly.

Kiiieeeeekkkk!

Kryaaaaakkkkk!

Other chimeras surrounded Poir roughly.

Liket that, a battle began, and a terrible noise stirred the forest.

The sound of something crashing. The sound of something bursting. The sound of screaming.

All the bizarre sounds that made an ominous and awful

imagination unfolded like a joint orchestral performance.

At the same time, there was a strong smell all over the place that paralyzed the sense of smell.

That two-hour fight was over.

In the middle of the forest where serenity came again, someone suddenly flew up.

An elderly man with a skinny body that replaced a part of his head with a steel plate and inserted a red lens instead of an eyeball.

He wore a satisfactory smile.

“Good job,”

## Chapter 118 - Return (2)

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There was no reason not to like it.

He smiled from ear to ear and approached Poir, an ancient predator.

While approaching, he stepped upon mushy debris of chimeras, but didn't give a damn.

Any number of these chimeras could be created.

It was unfortunate that two of the three new types of chimeras were not able to survive, given the specimen he got, it was no big deal.

‘Almost Player rate... no, more than that,’

Ancient predator, Anglerfish.

It was a rare species that could not be found across the whole dimension.

In addition, this being in front of his eyes was a mutation that was elevated to a very high level.

There were a lot of things to study.

The most interesting part was the predation abilities.

As mysterious and immersive as a Player's level abilities.

From the point of being able to be strong without limit, there was a great possibility.

The elderly man burst into laughter again.

He was so excited that he looked like he was going to dance.

“Hehe... Weren't you cooped into the city? Haha!”

Like that, after laughing for a while, he motioned with his hand and manipulated chimeras.

The survived chimeras were busy and cleaned up the traces of the

battle, and the biggest of them approached Poir, who was unconscious.

Just like a boa constrictor, the chimera swallowed him whole.

The elderly man praised the chimera, patting him on the back, then left, thinking to himself.

‘After studying predation abilities... If only I could apply them to my body...’

If that were possible, he would also be strong enough to reach Act 3 beyond Act 2.

Going through the ground tunnel, he had a smile playing about his lips, then said.

“I have to think of my wish,”

\*\*\*

“Please turn back Earth’s time to the time before I moved to the Rubel continent,”

Looking at Vulcan speaking with a decisive look, Hokulrus said.

“Did I say that the world was destroyed by invasion? I've seen a lot of people struggling to save their world, but it's the first time I've seen making all of the damage disappear,”

“Is it possible?”

Vulcan was worried that it would be impossible to make that wish.

Hokulrus answered, as if to say there’s nothing to worry about.

“Of course, possible. The Greatest God will grant your wish. Every wish is possible unless it is to kill somebody. In a second... I will pass along your wish to the Greatest God,”

Hokulrus then closed his eyes.

Vulcan looked at him with a strangely nervous feeling, and Hokulrus opened his eyes in less than a minute.

“Now it will soon be fulfilled. It will take about half a day. Until then, dimensional cross is not possible, so get some rest here,”

“Phew!”

Vulcan, who listened to his words, poured out his breath.

He then walked around the temple as if he did not know what to do with his trembling heart.

He wanted to go to his own home, the earth.

It was hard to bear.

The Blue Dragon and Blue Wind, who were staring at Vulcan, talked to him.

“Don’t go around flippantly. Sit still and have a cup of tea,”

Blue Wind still talked roughly, although Vulcan became a godly being.

Vulcan also didn’t care much about that and talked back.

“Yes, that’s a good idea. By the way, since when have you been here?”

“Just came. Wanted to say thank you before you leave,”

“Say thank you?”

The first time that Blue Dragon expressed gratitude.

With a surprised look on his face, Vulcan scanned Blue Dragon using SYSTEM.

[The Blue Dragon and Blue Wind]

[1002Lv]

‘Broke through the wall!’

“You broke through the wall! Were my vitality beads helpful?”

“Yeah, thanks. Yours was incomparably better than others,”

Looking at his face slightly different from the usual cold and

tight expression, Vulcan could see that he was in a very good mood.

Vulcan said.

“That’s great. So did you come to take the test?”

“No, not yet. I have not digested your beads yet,”

“Then, why...?”

“I told you earlier. To say thank you,”

“Hm?”

Vulcan got muddled.

Blue Wind clicked his tongue and pulled out something.

A book.

On the cover was nicely handwritten, “fresh summoning sake”.

Blue Wind threw it at Vulcan and, with saucer eyes, Vulcan snatched it away.

“A farewell gift,”

“...”

“Now that you have become a godly being, you can use it,”

“... thank you. I didn’t think you would give it for free,”

“What?”

“I was joking. Thank you,”

Vulcan raised his hands to stop Blue Wind approaching.

They exchanged jokes for a while, then Vulcan checked his reward for the shortest period clear.

[The Shortest Period Act 2 Clear Additional Reward]

1. Dimensional Cross’s Cooling Time Reduced 1 year > 1 week
2. Scan Ability Advanced (the more you focus, the closer you can



see)

A brief note.

Vulcan, who checked the additional rewards, had a brighter look.  
He liked both of them.

‘Better than useless, battle-related rewards,’

The time burden of going back and forth between the earth and Asgard was greatly reduced.

He was going to stop off in Act 1 to make reports to Filder and 6 zones and meet his best friend, Jake. Since the cooling time was a week, he thought of going more frequently.

He was not sure about the second reward, but when he tried using it to Blue Wind, he thought it was quite okay.

[The Blue Dragon and Blue Wind]

[1002Lv]

[Character: Good but cold-hearted]

[Potentiality: Good]

\*Have a strong power. Will soon rise to the rank of god.

\*Have a favorable impression of you.

More detailed than earlier one.

It was a great merit that he could know the favorability for him and the basic personality of his opponent.

Vulcan had to live an ordinary life among the people of Earth going forward.

As he was planning not to solve everything by force there, he thought the second reward would be useful for dealing with people.

‘Well, I have a problem dealing with people after all...’

Because he had only been fighting for hundreds of years.

Vulcan shook off the thought, then talked about a variety of subjects with Blue Wind, Hokulrus and Hornus.

The various knowledge that he had not known so far accumulated upon the head of Vulcan, and it was time to return.

Half a day passed.

Vulcan, who got ready to leave, said farewell to them.

“I’m going now,”

A quick farewell.

Since they would perhaps see each other going forward, there was no one who gave him a sad look.

Hornus, who was quiet, suddenly opened his mouth.

“You know that as the earth time has been turned back, there should also be no invasion by the Devil’s army. However, you have to prepare for that. Of course, it probably won’t be a problem even if the Devil comes...”

After a pause, Hornus continued, stroking his beard.

“Think beforehand and be sure not to repeat the damage again,”

“Ah... Yes. Thank you,”

Hornus reached out his hand to shake hands with Vulcan.

“Good bye. Well, if you ever change your mind and want to go to Act 3...”

“Okay, haha,”

“Maybe, after 500 years,’

Vulcan looked at each one in turn, Hokulrus, Hornus, and Blue Dragon and Blue Wind.

He used the Dimensional Cross Teleportation Technique, then disappeared in an instant.

They watched the place where Vulcan had left without words.

Blue Dragon broke the silence and talked to Hokulrus.

“Hokulrus? What is the test about?”

“Nope. I’m not supposed to let you know now...”

Hokulrus muttered quietly.

‘What a loser...’

\*\*\*

‘I will never grow used to this feeling,’

He felt as if he was throwing off his body and letting his spirit drift in an infinite space.

It seemed that he would never be used to this strange sensation even if he would repeat hundreds of times going forward.

If there were a little differences from the past, he felt more lucid and clear.

He assumed that as his rank got much higher, his ego also got stronger.

‘It was better when I felt foggy,’

When he used the Dimensional Cross Teleportation Technique for the first time, he had felt half drunk so the time had felt short but not now.

The process felt more vivid.

The time felt more boring and long.

Vulcan grumbled, waiting to arrive in the earth.

After some time.

Vulcan felt that his spirit was being sucked into a certain place, and soon he stepped on the land of the Republic of Korea.

Asphalt Concrete pavements.

High-rise apartment buildings.

Elementary school students that surrounded Vulcan with their mouths open.

‘Finally,’

His home, earth.

It was not a ruined earth wrecked by the Devil’s army, but a peaceful earth just before he landed on the Rubel continent.

A world where he lived with ordinary worries such love, midterm exams, etc.

Vulcan took a deep breath with a thrilled look.

“Huup!”

He then lifted his head slightly with his arms spread.

He wanted to feel the energy of the earth all over his body.

As if he had been in prison for 30 years and then just been released, and the elementary school students that were staring at him ran to somewhere quickly.

And the sounds of footsteps.

Tadadadadadadadada.

“Are you freaking kidding me?”

“I’m not, it is true! He looked just like the Carbon fiber kenji!”

“Let’s go, quick”

‘Huuck,’

Vulcan, who sensed that many elementary school students were gathering, quickly disappeared using magic.

The elementary school student, who came with five friends, looked around, but Vulcan wearing Demon Duke’s set could not be found anywhere.

“Are you freaking kidding me?”

“Agh, he was here,”

“You freaking liar,”

“No, he was here!”

In his inventory, he pulled out the clothes that he had collected when he came to the earth, quickly finished changing and moved to his neighborhood, then took off his invisible boots.

He then took a deep breath and walked into his house.

# Chapter 119 - Go Devilman

---

At first, he couldn't remember the way to home.

His house that he had wanted to come back to earnestly was only the destination that didn't lose its glow after many years.

Everywhere on the way was damaged and remained fragmented.

Good thing he remembered his home address correctly.

Asking a few people, he at last found the apartment that he had lived, ascended to the 21st floor by the elevator.

‘Too slow,’

Ascending floor by floor felt like 1 year in the Lava Demon cave.

He finally got out of the elevator and stared at the front door.

A very strange feeling.

As if he was standing in front of someone else's house. He hesitated.

‘... I have never expected to feel like this,’

Vulcan trembled with an entirely different kind of anxiety than he had ever felt.

Although he was an experienced warrior, having chopped down many monsters, demons, and wicked mages like rice straw, he could feel ‘fear’.

He was concerned that he would feel awkward.

Like that, he stood still for some time.

“...”

However, he knew that he couldn't keep on like this forever.

Vulcan slapped his face, then let out a sound, ‘ha’.

He felt a bit better as he released tensions in the torso.

With more solemn eyes than when he faced the boss monster in the Light inside the Darkness, he put his hand on the doorknob.

Bulkuk.

He couldn't open the door as someone opened it before he tried.

Vulcan stared at the person.

With an apron around her waist and wet hands, the person poked her her head.

His mother, Lee Hye-won.

He shook off all those negative feelings as he looked at her.

“Mother...”

Although he lived almost 300 years, he was just a 20-year old young man in Earth.

With tears running down his cheeks, he held onto her arms.

She was baffled by it.

“What's wrong... Didn't you say you were going to a school field trip 3 hours ago... Weren't you wearing a duck-down parka? Why are you wearing... less in this freezing winter? Were you... robbed???”

Lee Hye-won patted Vulcan, Kim Jae-hyuk's back.

Vulcan kept crying without saying anything.

Lee Hye-won, who thought something bad had happened to her son, tried to take him into the house, holding his hand.

Then, she felt the very thick callus on his palm.

Hard like a stone, his hand startled her.

“Your hand... ???”

She let go of his hand and took one step back, away from him.

The son, who came into her sight, was a bit different than she had ever known.

Much more rugged, sturdy body.

By looking at the exposed arms, she could associate with the muscles under his clothes.

“Son, your body...?”

Her wordlessness explained her emotions.

Whether or not, Vulcan kept crying as if a faucet had sprung a leak.

Like that, he cried for quite some time in front of the door, holding onto her arms.

\*\*\*

“Hey! I need to use that computer!”

“In a moment,”

“Nope, move over there!”

Vulcan’s younger sister, Kim Ha-young, her small hands pushed at Vulcan’s shoulders.

But she couldn’t push him out, who had ‘Godly Body’.

His body was as hard as a rock.

Kim Ha-young told him off in a high tone voice.

“Argh! What the hell are you doing...”

“Looking at my date of enlisting,”

“Ah... sorry,”

“Why sorry,”

Vulcan spoke in calm tones.

Kim Ha-young was dumbfounded by his nonchalant attitude.

“Why are you acting nonchalant?”

“Why not,”

“You are acting like going to a two nights, three days camp,”



\*FYI - South Korea requires all of its male citizens to serve in the military for two years and draft dodging is a problem.

Two years felt like two days to Vulcan.

Vulcan, who had been battling for 100 years.

Just two years of military service was nothing to him.

After looking at the information related to the Air Force and the Marine Corps, he rose from his seat, nodding his head.

Vulcan laid on the bed beside the desk, his arms and legs splayed out.

Listening to a EXO's song that his sister was playing on the computer, he closed his eyes and relished the comfort.

He was happy.

There were no words strong enough to express it.

It has been almost a year since Vulcan returned to Earth.

Having got used to South Korea, he became a normal college student.

Like other college students, he went to college, took classes, hung out with his friends and had a drink.

Because of the personality that changed somewhat, interpersonal relationship became narrower than before, but it did not matter.

Except he didn't have a girlfriend, he was satisfied with his life now.

‘Ah... one more thing...’

Beside that, there was one more thing that irritated his nerves.

He frowned slightly and had the thought distracting him.

‘Devil's army... When would they come? I think it's about time...’

When he returned to Act 1 from Earth, he heard that the Devil

had called out near Shinchon, about 1 year after he had left Earth.

The area was not far from where he lived.

Besides, he thought he could take of the 1st army easily.

It didn't take long for him to realize that he was wrong about it.

He frowned a little deeper.

“Ah... I can't go to the military then...”

Of course, regardless of where his troops was located, he could reach Seoul in a short time, but it could become very difficult if the Devil's army invaded during group actions or night watches.

‘Damn, should I put off...’

He then let out a deep sigh as he hoped the Devil's army would come soon.

Kim Ha-young, who squinted at Vulcan.

When she met his eyes, she turned her head back to the monitor as if nothing had just happened.

Watching the boy group, Exo dancing, she thought to herself.

‘He must have done something to his skin and body...’

After giving a quick glance at Vulcan lying in the bed, she shook her head as if it didn't makes, as if something didn't add up.

Vulcan, who was her ordinary brother a year ago, became someone else.

Smoother skin.

Much nicer shape.

‘What the hell happened to him?’

Kim Ha-young turned her chair to the bed, then asked.

“Hey,”

“What,”

“How come you don’t have a girlfriend?”

“Not that I don’t have, but I can’t,”

Vulcan answered, with a sullen look.

Kim Ha-young continued, shaking her head.

“Isn’t it because you are always at home? It’s Halloween. Aren’t you going to Itaewon with your friends?”

“My friends are serving in the military. And there is nothing like staying at home for Halloween,”

Kim Ha-young clicked her tongue.

Vulcan was lying on the bed as a dead man, Kim Ha-young frowned slightly.

‘Nothing beats ordinary days...’ Vulcan said to himself.

As he was relishing the comfort of his bed, he could feel the dark, wicked power approaching.

He raised up himself.

A crisis more terrible than the catastrophe predicted by Nostradamus.

But he seemed impassive as he was fully aware of it.

Rather, a slight smile hovering over his lips.

Getting ready to go out, he said.

“I’m going out,”

“Where are you going? It’s late!”

“Shinchon,”

“When will you be back?”

“Tomorrow morning, nah, I’m not sure,”

Vulcan hurried out of the apartment.

He had a quick look around to see if there were people and

CCTVs, then wore the Demon Duke set.

There was nothing better than this to conceal his identity.

Shuuuuuuuuukkkkkkkkkk.

As he flew up swiftly into the sky, a big smile bloomed on Vulcan's face.

‘I'm coming,’

## Chapter 120 - Go Devilman (2)

---

He had been worried that the Devil's army would not come until February of the next year, but the anxiety was gone.

With less burden on his mind, Vulcan operated the Thunder God's Might and headed to Shinchon joyfully.

He didn't think he would hide himself.

It was impossible to stop the Devil's army without being seen by anyone anyway.

Unless it is 'Kim Jae-hyuk, an ordinary young man living in the Republic of Korea, has the power that ought to be in a hero movie', it didn't matter what articles or news would come out the following day.

He thought it would be rather funny.

'Wish a movie about me could be made,'

Vulcan, who continued childish imaginations, flew into the sky, giggling to himself.

Obviously, he felt more at ease than he had been in Asgard.

His present life was similar to that of a office worker who would enjoy a Friday evening after finishing the day's work.

As there was nothing that would weigh on his mind, most of his thoughts flowed into the positive side, and when it was too much positive, those thoughts became childish.

It may be said that the mental age was too low for a person, who was near 300 years old, but Vulcan did not think so.

'I have spent 280 of 300 only fighting, so I'm still in my twenties,'

He didn't look aged like a mummy, but he was still fresh in appearance.

Thinking that he would live young until the moment he died, he

finished his flight.

He then straddled the streets and stood in front of a red periscope in Shinchon U-plex square as if nothing had happened.

Vulcan, who stood like a steel tower in the Demon Duke's set.

Although it was Halloween, he looked remarkably unique.

Looking at him, a lot of young people, who were walking on the Shichon streets, exchanged a word with each other.

“Wow... Awesome...”

“Oh, genji? Lionheart? Or another game’s character...”

“Didn’t you say you don’t play a game?”

“Ah... well, no, I mean...”

“Oh...”

“How much would that suit cost?”

Many people gave their attention, then went their way, and there were quite many gathered to watch Vulcan's armor.

Those who made round circles and surrounded Vulcan.

Receiving a hail of photo shoots, Vulcan smiled slightly inside his armet.

‘Ha...’

Like that, Vulcan, who was standing quietly for a time, gently lifted his hand.

He then, using his wind magic, blew the people all over the place.

Huuuiiiiiiiiiooonnnng.

“Uhgh! What the!”

“Uhhhgh!

“Shit, what the hell was it? What just happened?”

Although, by the delicate control of Vulcan, they landed safely,

but couldn't calm themselves down easily.

Looking at one another, they look dumbfounded as if they didn't understand what had just happened.

Nonchalantly, he cut off a large space from the outside with his shield magic.

The shield was shining in blue, instead of transparent.

It was because he was concerned that the public would see the forthcoming massacre and be mentally shocked.

Those who had seen it started taking pictures like mad, but Vulcan didn't care about it anymore.

Now they would appear in a little while.

Hundreds of years ago, they were hateful bastards that devastated his home.

To prevent the ground from being damaged, Vulcan spelled another shield magic and casted the Fire Field on it.

Looking at the burning frames without firewood, Vulcan thought to himself.

'It's now all set,'

Vulcan, who leaned against the red periscope with his arms folded.

Without even think about unsheathing his sword, he kept eyes forward.

He looked relaxed but his eyes were full of anger.

The space that his eyes had pointed to, became distorted like a whirlpool, and soon turned into a bobbing, black dimensional door.

Like the one of the Light inside Darkness that he had seen in Act 2.

He mumbled to himself, very quietly.

‘Bring it on,’

\*\*\*

The next morning.

Kim Ha-young, who woke up, grabbed her smartphone and connected to the SNS.

While swiping the latest updates of her acquaintances, various animal videos, and adult advertisements, she found a video.

A page titled ‘In Shichon yesterday. Not a movie. Hundreds of people saw this!’.

She clicked on the thumbnail that looked like a scene from a movie, followed by a CGI feast.

“Ooooah! Is this for real? Dad! Check this out!”

“What?”

Then, a sound from the living room caught her attention.

The sound came from a wall-mounted TV.

A news channel was showing the same video that she was watching earlier.

‘Unidentified alien in Shinchon street at 1:00 am on November 1’

She stood dumbfounded as if she couldn’t grasp the situation, then went to the room and looked at her smartphone.

There were a lot of comments.

\*\*\*

In addition to the SNS, there were articles and related reactions to all kinds of portal sites.

After checking them, she quickly ran to Vulcan’s room.

Kwang kwang kwang!

“Open it”



“Ah...”

As soon as Vulcan, who was half awake and half asleep, opened the door, she pulled her phone to him.

“This!”

“... this what?”

“Is this real? You went to Shinchon yesterday! Did you see this?”

“Ah... not sure what you are talking about...”

Rubbing his eyes, Vulcan yawned big and said nonchalantly.

“You didn’t see the devilman?”

“What?”

Vulcan asked back.

“Devilman! People call this... alien Devilman,”

“Ha...”

Vulcan smirked with a dumbfounded look.

Of course, what he had done yesterday was unordinary but he was surprised that people already nicknamed him.

Maybe, it was because he looked like a devil in the Demon Duke’s set.

After saying he had not seen it, he closed his door, then laid down in bed again.

‘Devilman? What a tacky name,’

Vulcan pulled out his smartphone and checked comments.

In some game-related communities, there were those who called him Devil Skin Genji, instead of Devilman.

After spending 30 minutes surfing the internet, Vulcan plugged his phone into the charger and fell back to sleep again.

It might be a great story for the people of Earth, but it was

nothing to him.

Not for the sake of fame.

He had no choice but to be seen as it was cumbersome to cover up his identity completely and stop the Devil's army.

The 'Sinchon Halloween' event, which became a hot topic for a while, remained the best mystery of the 21st century, and in January 2017, he entered the military as he had wanted.

The military life was much more comfortable than he had thought.

Sure thing.

Vulcan, who was able to adapt to the hellish and irrational military of '80s.

For him, who had such a strong body and mental like steel, the army of 2017, in which the motive dwelling system was established, was like camping for one year and nine months.

He completed his job thoroughly, with no difficulty.

Many NCOs watched him with startled eyes.

Vulcan also received a proposal to work in the military after discharge from military service.

But he didn't want to.

The military life was just not difficult for him and had no value to him.

At that time, he was so tired of living in Asgard that he only thought about eating, sleeping and resting.

As he was in a place where movement was limited, he thought a lot and was worried about his future.

He was not worried about living because of the gold bullion that Jake gave him, but only playing and eating were not what he wanted.

‘What should I do... I can’t use my magic and sword skills here, Earth...’

However, he didn’t want to be an office worker like ordinary people.

Vulcan had some difficulty in interpersonal relations.

He didn’t have enough confidence to work overtime at night and to curry favour with bosses.

His concerns continued through his military service.

He was also devoted to exploring his career, rather than enjoying military vacation.

After spending a long time thinking, he was discharged from military service and returned to his home. He then spent some quality time with his family.

What he started from the next day was, ‘writing a novel’.

## Chapter 121 - Go Devilman (3)

---

He decided to write a genre novel, jumping on the growing web novel market in Korea.

In fact, he had been worried about it during his last military vacation.

At the start, it seems easy to write, but I knew it was not easy to start writing.

Moreover, considering the unstable earnings and the many competitors, the market that might someday fall, it was a job that became more burdensome.

‘Of course, I still have a lot of money, so it does not matter how much I earn,’

The earnings were not a problem.

What Vulcan pondered was whether he could enjoy it.

He focused solely on what he could enjoy doing, the more he thought about it the more positive the thought of writing became.

It seemed to be a different kind of fun than when I wielded a sword and cast magic, and it seemed to be rewarding as well.

It was also a good thing that he did not have to worry about being stressed out by the public.

And most importantly, he had an almost infinitive range of materials.

Act 1's 6 zone, Jake, stories that he heard from Dokgo hoo and every rumor that he overheard in Act 2, all was like a exciting fantasy story.

However, even the story that he had experienced was exciting enough.

‘I just can't keep these stories to myself,’

He opened a file with a smile on his face.

As a document titled '99 Level Newbie' opened, there was a fair amount of writing that he had done in one day.

Without having to worry about squeezing a story, he wrote very fast.

Vulcan worked on it as if he was writing an essay, with the minimum amount of dramatization, and after the number of pages accumulated, he started to serialize it on a web novel site.

It was an incredibly static activity for him who had lived dynamically.

Vulcan, who liked it quite a bit.

“Oh, come on... Go outside!”

There was nothing that interfered with writing unless his sister yelled at him.

His parents, who he thought were the biggest problem, also supported his decision, and Vulcan was grateful.

He was hundreds of times happier than in the days of Asgard.

So, the new life of Vulcan began.

\*\*\*

Ten years passed.

In the meantime, Vulcan established himself in the genre novel industry.

His writing skills were not bad, but most of all, it was possible because of the constant material.

There were no works that were completely hits.

However, Vulcan, constantly coming up with a lot of materials, gradually gained recognition and was able to earn enough money by writing.

Every time he wrote, the malicious comments were annoying, but that did not matter.

As they were actually slitting his throat he could bear them.

And in the meantime, there was really something important in the life of Vulcan.

At last, he was married.

He had not had any contact with women for more than 290 years.

Love was so hard for him that had always lived in the crowd of men, or alone, and spent most of his time alone until marriage.

Of course, not that he had never been in love.

He knew little about dating, but he could transform himself into a dating expert in a moment using the scanning ability of the enhanced system.

However, he felt doubts about developing relationships by relying solely on the system. After a few dates, Vulcan did not utilize his scanning skills, and spent his life writing novels.

It was his sister, Kim Ha-young who saved him.

She was able to give him all kinds of tips along with her blind dates.

In the end, thanks to his sister's efforts, Vulcan was able to meet an engaging woman, and after two years, he got married.

‘Married in 300 years...’

When Vulcan entered the wedding ceremony, he got choked up and cried. He made a spectacle of himself in front of a lot of people, especially Kim Ha-yong, but didn’t care at all.

So, Vulcan lived a day by day, just like ordinary people.

But he was not always ordinary.

When the Devil’s army invaded, he became the devilman and exerted his skill, killing them.

The attack of the Devil's army continued intermittently after the second attack of Beljerom Duke.

The demons with duke rate invaded once every 10-15 years.

And a superhero, Devilman, who get rid of those demons.

Now the earth people came to know his purpose.

“Ahahahaha! Humans! Prepare to die!”

Of course, the Demon Duke, Mohoke became a handful of ashes as soon as Vulcan appeared, but in those short times, it resulted in hundreds of victims.

The media showed a greater interest in the demons and the devilman who warded off them than the dead people.

‘Exclusive! Devilman's journey turns out to be for humankind’

‘Unidentified Demons, and Devilman’

‘Where are they from?’

‘Devilman is Korean’

The craze of the Devilman who took over the earth globe in an instant.

People feared for the unidentified beings that were aiming for their lives, but they showed enthusiasm for the unidentified hero who warded off the beings.

Various contents related to Devilman flooded.

Movies, novels, animations, and games suddenly popped up, and various items such as toys and figures were sold out.

It was a sure thing the reaction to the real-life hero called ‘Devilman’ was explosive in a situation where even the heroes who do not exist in reality receive infinite love.

Both men and women loved Devilman.

It could be said that ‘the age of Devilman’ came.

However, Vulcan didn't think much about it.

He lived as an ordinary novelist, a husband, and a father.

So again, time passed, and Vulcan was 75 years old.

\*\*\*

“Oh dear, backache,”

Vulcan said as he stood up from his chair.

Of course, his back was not really aching.

It just became a habit while pretending to be old.

Vulcan, who made an appearance of an old man through magic, walked slowly and sat on the sofa in the living room and turned on the TV.

When he saw Devilman 6, counterattack of Metatron, which he had been watching ad nauseam, he frowned and turned the channel.

“What the...”

When he first saw the movie, he went to the movie theater because he found it amazing, but now all of his interest cooled down.

But regardless of his preference, the world still loved Devilman, and the annual, relevant contents were dominating the market.

And, among the contents, there was the most talked about.

It was a virtual reality game ‘Devil's War’ that appeared like a comet three years ago and captivated the hearts of people around the world.

Vulcan stared at the host who enthused about Devil's War updates on the gaming channel, and frowned again.

This was also because the game was manly related to Devilman.

He grumbled that he had nothing to see, and he went out the



front door, clicking his tongue.

“Where are you going?”

“Picking up Chul-hwan,”

Kwang

Out of the apartment, Vulcan sat on the bench and felt a cool breeze and conceived a novel story.

The web serial market had shrunk considerably in comparison to the past, but Vulcan, who did not care about revenue, continued to write.

It was not as fun as it used to be, but he still liked to write a novel, and it was also ambiguous for an old man to start doing other things.

‘If the people around me died one by one... I wouldn’t know what would happen then,’

At that time, he may hide himself and live a second life.

But considering his wife and sister and other acquaintances who were still hale, it seemed that 20 years remained until that time.

Of course, he was not hoping for that.

He wanted to keep his peaceful life as long as possible.

Later, the monotonous and static life of the present may become boring and he may seek another life, but not at the present time.

He reminisced about the past 55 years of earth life with sensitive eyes.

Not too bad.

‘Except for just one thing,’

His second son and daughter-in-law died in a car accident.

The heartbreaking accident kept Vulkan’s mind down, but it was inevitable.

He had a powerful force like God, but was never an omnipotent person like God.

‘They would not have had this kind of accident if I had been able to give my children the power as well as other gods,’

Was it because of the power obtained by the SYSTEM?

His children were just ordinary humans who did not inherit his strength, and he did not prevent the death of his son.

At one time, he had been depressed for a long time due to the guilty about not being able to prevent the accident.

But he could not be depressed forever.

He shook off most of his depression.

And he raised his grandson Kim Chul-hwan they left behind, and he did his utmost to fill their absence.

Picking up him was part of his efforts.

He had to try to make Kim Chul-hwan happy, who was only 12 years old.

Due to his efforts, Kim Chul-hwan grow up to be as active and positive as his peers.

Kim Chul-hwan was good with my friends, laughed at home and showed a bright appearance.

Besides, his caring led Vulcan to reflect on his childhood.

However...

“Who did this to you???”

“Nobody,”

“Do not lie!!!”

It seemed likely that someone hit his grandson’s face.

Vulcan frowned.

Kim Chul-hwan ashamed of his grandfather who was shouting,

covered Vulcan's mouth.

"Please stop shouting,"

"Who the hell did this to your face???"

"..."

Chul-hwan hesitated at first, but couldn't help but say.

The story sounded very typical.

Some other kids made fun of Chul-hwan for having no parents.

Chul-hwan was so angry that he charged at them.

Vulcan, who heard the story, rolled up his sleeves and said in a huff.

"Alright, then. Bring them here..."

"No, no way!"

Suddenly, Chul-hwan raised his voice and stopped Vulcan.

He then looked at Vulcan and said in a low voice,

"Their fathers are... very famous. Chairmen... and politicians..."

"..."

Speechless Vulcan.

He got choked up, looking at his grandson who was afraid that his grandfather would get in trouble.

Chul-hwan, who became mature at a very young age.

Vulcan was angry because he did not seem to be a real support himself.

He closed his eyes to fix his feelings.

Chul-hwan, who was staring at Vulcan with a pen-up look.

He talked to Vulcan in a lower voice than earlier.

"Can I transfer to another school?"

At that moment.

Vukan's patience completely collapsed and he could no longer listen to his grandson's gloomy words.

Vulcan, who usually bent his back, stood upright and entered the house, holding Chul-hwan's hand without speaking a word.

Then, he opened the front door and was about to go out.

Chul-hwan, who grabbed Vulcan with a frightened look on his face.

“Grandpa? Are you really going?...”

“Chul-hwan, what did you say their fathers are?”

Chul-hwan said slowly, shivering slightly.

“C.. hairmen? Politicians...?”

“That would be no problem for me,”

Just before closing the door, Vulcan stroke Chul-hwan's head and said, “Your grandpa is much stronger than them,”